

Waylan Olson's senior project: community band to play Feb. 4

By Carolyn Olson
Clark High School senior Waylan Olson is the son of Casey and Melissa Olson. He has two younger siblings, brother Westen (14) and Abbie (10). Waylan lived in Bradley before his family moved to Clark when he was eight years old.

For Waylan's senior class project, he chose to form a community band and plans to have his band be part of the Clark High School Pops concert in February.

"I wanted to do something with the community; I love music, and it seems like most of our community does too since most of our concerts are full houses," said Olson.

Olson's mentor, Mrs. Amy Nelson thought of the idea and knew Waylan would be the perfect person to take on this type of project.

"I asked Mrs. Nelson how I could get the community band into playing a concert, and she said to add the performance into the Pops concert," he added.

Nelson explained, "Waylan and I started last spring with picking out music. We knew we wanted to do this at the Pops concert, and we spent the last part of Waylan's junior year researching music that would appeal to everyone, while still challenging us but also attainable."

Amy went on to say, "We blocked off 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. every Sunday in January to reserve the band room for rehearsals in order to have flexibility for people to come as much as they feel they need."

The first rehearsal was January 5, and according to Nelson, the re-

Olson's love for music began in elementary school, saying, "Music

Waylan later joined band when he was a fifth grader playing the clarinet. When he was in the eighth grade, Olson was asked if he'd like to try the bass clarinet and has been playing the instrument ever since. "You won't see anyone having as much fun as me when we are playing music," he said. Other instruments Waylan would like to try in the future are the trumpet and the French horn.

In addition to band, Olson sings bass in the Clark High School choir but helps the tenors when needed. He clarified, "For All-State Choir last year and also in 2023, I was a tenor."

Olson and his mentor will be holding practices at the Clark High School band room every Sunday in January from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The music picked out for the community band to practice and perform is a 60s mix, including "Louie Louie", "Devil with the Blue Dress" and "Gimmie Some Lovin'."

The Clark High School Pops concert is set for Tuesday, February 4 at the Clark High School. The community band, directed by Olson, will be the grand finale.

Waylan's plans for after graduating from CHS in May are to attend college at Augustana University in Sioux Falls and become a chiropractor.

"My hopes are that someone continues doing this (community band) even when I'm gone from Clark High School," concluded Olson.

WAYLAN OLSON'S SENIOR PROJECT

COMMUNITY BAND

DO YOU HAVE PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE PLAYING AN INSTRUMENT?

COME PLAY WITH THE HIGH SCHOOL BAND!

SONG: 60'S ROCK MIX - LOUIE LOUIE, DEVIL WITH THE BLUE DRESS, & GIMMIE SOME LOVIN'

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hearsal was successful, having a good mix of high school band and community band members.

was always so fun for me; I always enjoyed it." He started singing in preschool and fell in love with it.

Two ambulance crew terminated by Clark County Commissioners

By Carolyn Olson
The Clark County Commissioners made the decision to terminate Randy Angermeier as an EMT, and Cassidy Sivertson as Ambulance Administrator and paramedic from the Clark Ambulance crew at their meeting on Tuesday, December 17. The decision went into effect December 31, 2024.

According to Angermeier, the decision was made due to medical rea-

sons. "I've had three back surgeries and have another coming up on January 15," he stated. Angermeier fractured his back about a year ago while on the job, which led this upcoming surgery. "I was a year away from retiring anyway, so that's my plan now," he explained.

According to Cass Sivertson, his reason for termination was due to location. He was informed in September 2024 that the commission-

ers would be searching for a local resident to take over the position. Sivertson has been a paramedic for over 10 years and enjoys his work. "I like helping people, and I liked everyone I worked with here in Clark," he stated.

Wade Hoefert was hired as Ambulance Administrator, to replace Sivertson, during the November 19, 2024 Clark County Commissioners meeting, effective January 1, 2025.

He along with other squad members composed letters on Sivertson's behalf to the commissioners. Chairman Chris Sass was the only commissioner to vote against Sivertson's termination. When asked for comment on the decisions, none was given. "I didn't really want to leave, but I plan to do PRN shifts as a paramedic for the Day County Ambulance," Sivertson stated.

Hofer places second in state snow queen talent competition

Kaylyn Hofer, pictured right, finished in second place in the Senior Talent division at the South Dakota Junior Snow Queen Festival that took place on Saturday, January 4 in Aberdeen.

Hofer sang "Automatic" by Miranda Lambert.

Kaylyn is a senior at Willow Lake High School and is the daughter of Derick and Cheri Hofer of Carpenter.

Also competing on Saturday were Selma Nelson, Clark Area 2025 Junior Snow Queen and 2025 Clark Area junior talent winners Grady Huber and Baylar Lamb performing a piano duet.

Hannah Heiman, Clark Area 2025 Snow Queen, will compete in the senior division of the South Dakota State Snow Queen Festival coming up this weekend in Aberdeen.

Photo Courtesy of South Dakota Snow Queen Festival



First Clark City Council meeting of the year livestreamed on Zoom

By Carolyn Olson

The January meeting of the Clark City Council was held on Monday night. Council members Derrick Dohmann and Andrew Zemlicka were absent. This city council meeting was the first to be open to the public through Zoom. One community member was logged into Zoom to watch/attend the meeting. Zoom is a cloud-based video conferencing tool that allows users to connect with each other using audio, video, phone and chat.

Mayor Kerry Kline called the Board of Adjustment to order at 7:00 p.m. Stefanie Oleson was the only individual on the agenda. She was asking for a conditional use permit for an in-home daycare. Oleson stated that she was able to get six of the nine required signatures from her neighbors. Her other neighbors were unavailable because they are out of state. The council made a motion to approve.

At 7:02 p.m., the council meeting was called to order. There was no public input.

City Finance Office Rae Jean Flora reported that she and deputy finance officer April Fitzgerald have been working on the end of the year information and have gotten new

computers in their office.

Councilman Shane Hagstrom asked about the ice skating rink. Mayor Kline explained that as soon as the weather gets cold and stays consistently cold, there will be a third attempt to fill the rink. They've already attempted to fill the rink twice, but each failed.

The council approved surplus items to be listed with Purple Wave. The items to be listed include a skid loader broom, grapple fork and pallet forks.

There were some concerns raised about vacation time and pay listed in the operations manual. The council will be looking them over and will have further discussion at February's meeting.

Executive session for personnel and contractual reasons began at 7:20 p.m., ending at 7:37 p.m. Council member Brandon Kottke made a motion to increase April Fitzgerald's pay by \$0.25 per hour starting on her six-month work anniversary on January 22, 2025. Hagstrom seconded the motion.

The January meeting of the Clark City Council adjourned at 7:38 p.m. The next meeting will be Monday, February 3, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

English journalist Marc Perry visited Clark County in the fall

By Tara Knutson

Theoretically, the culture of a country is seen through revelations within customs, arts, social institutions and human intellectual achievement and can be assumed by engaging in these aspects of society. For example, the value the society places on a particular attribute can be evaluated by studying its presence in songs and media.

This theoretical concept was taken into account by English writer and journalist Marc Perry, but it was not an all-inclusive method of evaluation for the writer and photographer. For Perry, experiencing the culture first hand through in-depth visiting and touring of the areas were necessary.

After visiting and capturing 40 countries through writing and photography, America was next for Perry.

"Like many of us, the landscape of my imagination was filled with the United States long before traveling there, most vividly beginning with images within the songs of Bruce Springsteen, Bob Dylan and Tom Waits. I was captivated by American music, art, photography, landscapes, extroversion and inventiveness," explains Perry.

"The fascination with America started in my childhood with books, film, music and photogra-



Marc Perry has an MA in International Journalism and has worked in several countries including Afghanistan and Kosovo. He worked with the British Army as a media operative and medic for four years. Early in his career, he served as a butler to the Duke and Duchess of Northumberland at Alnwick Castle and butler to international shooting parties in Scottish Borders. When opportunities would present, Perry would sometimes support his freelancing with other work including teaching social studies or English. While visiting in Clark County this past fall, Perry spent time photographing the landscape including Antelope Lake and Mankey Slough, which can be seen on his traveling blog online. The date for the book showcasing his completed studies is yet to be determined.

Photo Courtesy of Marc Perry

phy. It's not just me, but many of my friends have caught the bug through the soft power of Amer-

ican cultural influence," Marc said. "When you live in America it's difficult to see your impact as a nation, but as a foreigner, your outreach is profound."

In an effort to try to truly understand the "real America" as he calls it, Perry spent some time immersed in the culture of American people, including time spent in Clark. "The information will eventually be turned into a book. Right now, I publish stories on a digital platform. Since returning to the United Kingdom for the holidays, I've not stopped writing; this subject could easily occupy the rest of my life!"

This isn't the first time Perry has enveloped himself within a new and unfamiliar culture. He has done similar work within the Republic of Kosovo, spending 11 years reaching into various aspects of the country. This research is published into "Kosovo: War Their Own Words" now available in two different languages.

"Traveling around America after 11 years in Kosovo has been quite a culture shock, especially for an Englishman. But, boy has it stimulated some writing!" Marc exclaimed.

"One thing that I did notice within the American people is that, contrary to popular opinion, the 'American Dream' is not dead, though it may pose difficulties,"

explained Perry. "The opportunities in America are only limited by the dreamer. Another noted observation, Perry explained, is just how steadfast and essential the Christian church plays in people's lives. "I don't get the same sense of vitality from churches in the UK, where Christianity is present, but softly spoken - except in immigrant populations."

The heartland hometown setting pulled at Perry's ideation of the American small town. He said, "A person can easily pass through Clark and never have a clue as to what's offered there. The population is small, but you have big schools, many churches, a post office, a café, a courthouse, community center, a bowling alley, some quiet bars, stores that supply all

Marc Perry
(continued on back page)

WEATHER			
Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer			
	HI	LO	PR
December 31	39	22	0.04
January 1	26	15	0.01
January 2	23	13	0
January 3	16	1	0
January 4	11	-4	0
January 5	9	-5	0
January 6	9	-3	0
2025 precipitation to date	.05"		
2024 precipitation to date	.06"		



County officials sworn into office

Knock elected commissioner chairman

The oath of office for newly elected Clark County Constitutional elected officers was given Tuesday morning by Clark County Auditor Chris Tarbox.

Pictured left to right are: Chris Sass, Clark County Commissioner, District 2; Louann Streff, Clark County Coroner; Terry Schlagel, Clark County Commissioner, District 4; Carrie Reis, Clark County Treasurer; and Chad Fjelland, Clark County States Attorney.

Wallace Knock was elected chairman of the Clark County Board of Commissioners at their meeting Tuesday. Sara Gjerde was elected vice chairman.

Commissioner committee assignments for 2025 were made, including: Mental Health - Gjerde; Extension - Sass and Schlagel; Weed and Pest - Knock; Airport - Schlagel, Gjerde and Francis Hass; ICAP - Hass; First District - Gjerde; Glacial Lakes - Schlagel; and Legislative Contact - Knock and Gjerde.

Photo by Carolyn Olson