

Willow Lake coronation is Monday

Willow Lake Homecoming activities begin Monday evening, as the Homecoming royalty are crowned. Coronation will be on Monday, October 11 at 7:30 p.m. in the Willow Lake school gymnasium. Burning of the WL will follow coronation at the football field.

The Homecoming volleyball game will be Thursday, October 14 at Willow Lake against Redfield.

Queen candidates selected are:
Gwyneth Warkenthien is the daughter of Ryan and Loretta Warkenthien. Her activities are volleyball, yearbook, band, National Honor Society, SADD and FFA.

Grace Peterson is the daughter of Kyle and Jody Peterson. Her activities include FFA President, cross country, senior class secretary/treasurer, SADD and National Honor Society.

Maggie Hovde is the daughter of Cheryl Hovde and the late Mike Hovde. Her activities include FFA Vice President, 4-H, cheerleading, cross country, basketball, yearbook, Student Council President, senior class President, National Honor Society, SADD, choir and band.

2021 King candidates are:
Lucas Kannegieter is the son of Mark and Christina Kannegieter. He is involved in FFA, football, wrestling, baseball, National Honor Society and Student Council Secretary.

Jack Bratland is the son of Curwin and Kim Bratland. His activities include FFA, golf, baseball, 4-H and National Honor Society.

Avery Nichols is the son of Brock and Carolyn Nichols. He is active in football, wrestling, FFA, 4-H and Student Council Vice President.

Gift carriers for coronation will be first graders Jacoby Larson and Julianne Edleman. Jacoby is the son of Derick and Patti Larson and Julianne's parents are Drew and Kayla Edleman.

Junior attendants are Alicia Vig, daughter of Norman and Tara Vig and Mitchell Larson, son of Daron and Ann Larson.

"Movies" is the theme for the 2021 Willow Lake Homecoming.
Willow Lake Homecoming
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The 2021 royalty candidates for the Willow Lake Homecoming have been selected. Coronation is on Monday, October 11, at 7:30 p.m. in the high school gym.

In the back row, left to right are king candidates Lucas Kannegieter, Jack Bratland and Avery Nichols.

In the middle row, left to right are queen candidates Gwyneth Warkenthien, Grace Peterson and Maggie Hovde. In the front row, left to right, first grade gift carrier Jacoby Larson, junior attendant Alicia Vig and first grade gift carrier Julianne Edleman. Not pictured is junior attendant Mitchell Larson.

City of Clark leads discussion of water/sewer project, abatements and chickens

End of summer discussions highlighted a full two-hour meeting of the Clark City Council, Monday, Oct. 4.

The council began by looking over the massive Helms and Associates Clark Water Study Update, with a price tag of \$11,618,000 for the total project.

The water distribution system in Clark is antiquated and needs attention, stated the Helms study summary:

- About 55% of the system is comprised of ACP and CIP. This pipe has outlived its design life expectancy and has become brittle and very susceptible to breaks due to frost movement and water leaks. The CIP pipe is also likely to have deposits along the pipe making the actual size much less.

- Various blocks of 2" and 4" watermain greatly reduce the overall flow rates throughout the system and are susceptible to possible vacuum collapse if fire hydrants are used improperly.

- In a couple locations throughout the City, the existing watermain dead ends. Looping these lines would significantly improve water quality.

- Approximately half of the existing hydrants are original to the system and some are non-repairable and in poor working condition.

- Existing water meters are about 10 years old and many are replaced every year. These meters likely contribute to the high water loss in the system and significant labor hours to replace.

- This alternative will address the known deficiencies within the system as related to the existing ACP and CIP watermain. This will provide a boost to the water system flows and assist in the future integrity of the system.

Mayor Kerry Kline and finance officer Alaina Wellnitz are pursuing a State Water Fund application to help with this project.

The water/sewer infrastructure project is in a very preliminary state, but because of potential state and federal grants at this time the

city is looking at all potential options and avenues to help with water/sewer lines.

Rocky and Brenda Beynon, who live on N. Commercial St. in Clark were in attendance at the October council meeting to refute an abatement letter sent them by the city.

The Beynons have vehicles in their back yard the city would like to see removed and both parties promised open communication moving forward. It was noted that this wasn't the first abatement letter received by the Beynons.

Wellnitz then spoke of four problem residences, asking the council what they wanted her to do regarding these eyesores. Three letters had been sent to each owner, one in May, July and September. A certified letter will again go out regarding 'you must clean up your yard'.

Kristin Vandersnick, executive director of Choose Clark County, was next on the agenda. Also at the meeting were Greg Janisch and Warren Brandlee, president and vice president respectively of Choose Clark County.

The County of Clark and City of Clark annually provide \$25,000 each to Choose Clark County. At the September meeting of the Clark City Council the council was inquisitive as to what progress was being made and the housing and business growth opportunities.

Vandersnick detailed various projects, including: Cost-Share

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WEATHER

Robert Cole - Official
Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
Sept. 28.....	84	60	0
Sept. 29.....	89	63	0
Sept. 30.....	81	57	0
Oct. 1.....	71	57	.18
Oct. 2.....	67	55	.22
Oct. 3.....	69	48	0
Oct. 4.....	74	48	0
2021 precipitation to date	18.47		
2020 precipitation to date	16.98		

Labor shortage and COVID-19 costs causing crisis in long-term care industry in South Dakota

Bart Pfankuch
South Dakota News Watch
Finding a safe, affordable and accessible nursing home or assisted-living center for sick or elderly South Dakotans has become more difficult in recent years but is getting harder than ever due to a shortage of facility workers and financial losses suffered amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

The labor shortage affecting businesses across South Dakota is hitting long-term care facilities particularly hard, with the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbating historic challenges in hiring workers at nursing homes and assisted-living centers.

The inability to fill open positions and keep up with patient care has led some facilities to turn away new residents even though most have open beds. The labor shortage has caused burnout of overworked employees and reduced the level of patient care at some facilities.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, long-term care facilities in South Dakota saw payrolls rise by almost \$30 million overall but lost about \$60 million in revenue due to reduced resident admissions, according to the South Dakota Health

Care Association. Faced with the need to raise wages and offer hiring bonuses to attract workers or hire expensive traveling nurses, some facilities already beset by high operating costs and thin profit margins could eventually close, making it harder than ever for families to find a home for their loved ones, industry experts say.

"Access to care could look very different in the future if our funding mechanisms and funding infrastructure don't change in South Dakota," said Nate Schema, vice president of operations for the Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society, which operates long-term care facilities. "You're going to have to move your loved ones further and further away from the communities they may have called home for 50-plus years."

The workforce shortage has created new obstacles and worsened ongoing challenges for Good Samaritan, one of the largest long-term care providers in the nation. The group, based in Sioux Falls and now operating under the umbrella of the

Labor shortage
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Beautiful weather for Oktoberfest, 2021

Games for young and old alike were held on N. Commercial Street in Clark during Oktoberfest 2021, held Saturday.

The first Oktoberfest held two years ago in 2019 had a more Halloween flavor, as it was held toward the end of the month.

Not so much this year as the weather was summer-like and many games were available for youngsters, above.

Later on the adults took over, but the afternoon belonged to the kids. Ping pong ball toss, bouncy house, balloon man, face painting and ring toss were a few of the games.

A highlight was 'pie in the face' to Dr. Craig Spieker, on his knees. (It was only the whipped cream portion of the pie.)

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