



Clark School held their annual Veterans Day Program in the high school gym on Monday, November 11 starting at 10:00 a.m. On the left, guest speaker at the Veterans Day Program this year was Amber Nickeson. As part of her speech, she recited the Soldier's Creed. Above, the Parade of local Veterans started off the program. Right, student council member Zoey Helkenn places the inverted glass during the Fallen Soldier Table presentation.

Photos by Karli Paulson

Local veterans recognized, honored at Clark school's Veterans Day program

Veterans Day was Monday, November 11, a day of remembrance to honor all military veterans of the U.S. armed forces. The day was originally known as Armistice Day and Remembrance Day to commemorate the end of World War I. In 1954, the U.S. Congress changed the day to Veterans Day.

Clark elementary, middle school and high school students put on a Veterans Day program on Monday at the Clark High School gym starting at 10:00 a.m.

Coffee and rolls were served from 9:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. for local veterans. The Presentation of Colors was done by the Clark Boy Scouts, followed by the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Clark High School concert band played "Armed Forces Medley" during the Parade of Veterans. Clark High School Student Body President Talyn Ortberg then welcomed everyone to the program. "Who Are the Brave" was sung by the ninth through 12th grade choir.

The Fallen Soldier Table presentations was completed by the Clark High School student council members. Following that, was the video representation of local veterans that was put together by Brenda Jenkins and produced by Furness Funeral Home. There was also a short video presentation of the preschool students answering the question: "What is a Veteran?" Then, the kindergarten through fifth grade students sang "Veterans, We Love You."

Amber Nickeson, a local veteran and nurse at Sanford Clinic in Clark was asked to be the guest speaker at this year's Veterans Day program. During her speech, she recited the Soldier's Creed, which is as follows:

I am an American Soldier.
I am a warrior and a member of a team.
I serve the people of the United States, and live the Army Values.
I will always place the mission first.

I will never accept defeat.
I will never quit.
I will never leave a fallen comrade.
I am disciplined, physically and mentally tough, trained and proficient in my warrior tasks and drills.
I always maintain my arms, my equipment and myself.
I am an expert and I am a professional.
I stand ready to deploy, engage, and destroy, the enemies of the United States of America in close

combat.
I am a guardian of freedom and the American way of life.
I am an American Soldier.
The program was cut short due to a medical emergency in the audience. The elementary students and staff were filed out of the gym first, followed by veterans, patrons and middle/high school students and staff.

Clark Community Forum is Thursday at golf course

By Catie Noethlich

The Clark Community Forum is set to take place on Thursday, November 14 at 5:30 p.m. at the Clark Golf Course. The Clark Area Chamber of Commerce has been invited to co-host this second forum.

The evening will begin with a presentation from the Clark Chamber aimed at assisting in the plan-

ning of the organization's future, with input from the community. Following the presentation, attendees will receive updates on projects prioritized during the previous forum, including the pool and hotel initiatives.

Choose Clark County encourages community members to share their thoughts on the direction of upcoming projects. They are excited to engage with the residents of Clark to envision the future of the city. Everyone who can attend is invited to join the Chamber, Choose Clark County, and members of the Clark City Council as we work together to shape the future of Clark.

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Fire occurs last Tuesday at Fuller farm southeast of Clark

ByCarolynn Olson

Volunteer fire departments from Clark, Henry and Hazel along with County Sheriff Deputy Lindsay Stiefel and Clark City Police Chief Jeremy Wellnitz responded to a fire Tuesday, Nov. 5 that started between 2:00-3:00 p.m. at the Bill and Jody Fuller farm southeast of Clark.



Pictured above is Bill and Jody Fuller's home southeast of Clark showing fire damage in the upper level. The blaze occurred Tuesday, November 5.

"I was washing the house windows outside when I heard a thud that seemed uncharacteristic," said Jody. "Something seemed off, so I climbed down the ladder and into the house with Bill headed towards me asking about the awful noise." I was then she instantly knew the sound of the smoke alarm and tried to determine which one it was, as she detected no smoke at that time.

When Jody determined it was the upper level smoke alarm, she headed to the upstairs level of the house to check. "There was still no smoke, but halfway across the hallway that quickly changed, and I hurried down the enclosed stairway and grabbed Bill."

The couple exited the house and quickly started making phone calls. Two of Bill and Jody's sons, Rob and Matt were on scene using garden hoses and making use of the ladder Jody had been using for cleaning windows to shoot water into the bedroom where the fire originated. They were unable to target with the water but did wet down the general contents which may have helped slow down the progress of the fire.

Along with the three fire departments, Northwest Public Service was on scene with a bucket lift truck and able to better target water to help contain and put out the fire.

The fire departments, with help from the lift truck, were able to extinguish the bedroom fire that had spread to all four upstairs bedrooms and subsequent fire smoldering in the attic. "Upstairs is a war zone. The only thing salvaged was Bill's mother's cedar chest; it was a wedding gift from her parents."

Jody explained, "Several of my families handmade quilts have been removed from the chest. I'm hoping with some time hanging outside, the quilts will be salvageable."

A crew from Northwestern Public Service was also on scene with a bucket lift truck and were able to better target water to help contain and put out the fire.

Bill Fuller is a Hampshire Sheep historian, and according to Jody, he has the largest Hampshire flock book collection in the country outside the registry office. "The book collection is not particularly attractive but holds records of all registrations, transfer of recorded sales, etc. They were not damaged," clarified Bill.

"We have no plans to move to town, as we love farm living," stated Jody. They moved to their farm as newlyweds 57 years ago and have remained there since then. In 1978, they added footage to the original 24 ft. x 24 ft. home. The couple said the last several years, their farm ground has been rented to their oldest son, but they have continued to raise registered Hampshire and Babydoll sheep on their farm.

According to the Clark Police Department, State Fire Marshall Kyle

Moser of Aberdeen and DCI criminal justice determined the cause of the blaze was electrical in nature. Between the smoke, water and fire damage, the home looks to be a complete loss.

"I'd like to advise the public to remove any debris near standing heaters you have inside your home and make sure not to overload certain outlets or power sources," recommended Clark County Sheriff Deputy Lindsay Stiefel.

November meeting of Clark School Board held Monday

ByCarolynn Olson

The November meeting of the Clark School Board was Monday, November 11 in the Clark High School library at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. and was kicked off with Megan Palmer, middle school science teacher, presenting to the board about the middle school STEM class. Palmer stated that the STEM class has been really fun and feels blessed to be here in this school and community.

colleges and also middle school and high school proficiency scores. They also discussed steps for improvement for the elementary.

The goals and needs moving forward for the middle school and high school are by Fall 2025 for 65% of all students in the Clark Middle School and High School to demonstrate measurable growth in math, reading, language usage and science compared to Fall 2024 and Fall 2025 NWEA MAP assessment data.

The needs for high school are to assess new requirements for juniors taking ACT tests, instead of smarter balance for 2025-2026 school year. "We really need to develop an ACT preparation (pre-act) and build on those deficits with intervention and focus on identified needs," said Heggelund.

be one large athletic achievement banquet. Instead, each sport will hold individual banquets shortly after each season ends. "We are going to try this year and see how it goes. The reasoning is for the kids to have immediate recognition and be able to bask in their achievements. Each sport's banquet will alternate between Clark and Willow Lake for fairness of locations," he explained.

Business Manager Mary Nelson reported that the final ESSER payment was received in October so all ESSER grants are closed out, and the ESSER audit is complete. She also reported receiving the yearly audit results. "For the first time, I had no findings," she stated.

Board of Governance

Motions were made to approve claims list for payment and supplement to the 2024 to 2025 athletic budget in the amount of \$11,031.00.

There was a brief discussion of the new district policy for "Fiscal Management for Purchasing and Procurement Using Federal Funds." This matter will be discussed and finalized at December's board meeting.

A rough draft of the 2025-2026 school district calendar was handed out and briefly discussed. Superintendent Travis Ahrens stated, "We will discuss this further in December. I want to give everyone enough time to go over and make changes as needed."

The surplus of six Wenger travel set acoustic panels, two Guardian forced-air furnaces and 65 maroon choir robes with bags were approved with no amendments.

The South Dakota Department of Education 2023-2024 report cards were discussed. Elementary Principal Jon Redmond, Middle/High School Principal Jennifer Heggelund and Superintendent Ahrens presented the information through a PowerPoint presentation showcasing the elementary school, Fordham, Hillcrest and Silverlake

Reports

In his superintendent report, Ahrens stated that the new sound system updates in the main gym will start Tuesday, November 12. He also talked about the second batch of CTE grant equipment that has arrived. The wrestling room wall mats are in and will be put up soon.

"The Veterans Day program went well overall; we did have a minor health incident with an individual that wasn't feeling well," said Ahrens. "But, hats off to our staff and students for staying calm. Everyone was very helpful."

Ahrens also mentioned that with the election updates, Initiated Measure 28 did not pass, expressing that this was a good result for school districts.

Lastly, he reported that the fall sport season are wrapping up for the year, and winter sports will be starting soon.

It was decided that there will not

Heggelund shared that motivational speaker Corey Greenwood will speak at Clark High School on Wednesday, November 20 at 1:30 p.m. He will talk about adversity and getting through tough things that can make you stronger, along with music and other topics.

Wednesday, November 27 is teacher in-service. The middle school and high school Christmas concert is set for Tuesday, December 3 at 7:00 p.m. in the Clark High School gym.

Elementary Principal Redmond reported that parent-teacher conferences went well with a good turnout. Red Ribbon Week was two weeks ago, during which school counselor Felicia Hoffman visited each classroom and talked to the students about making good choices.

The Clark Elementary School Christmas concert will be Thursday, December 5 at 6:30 p.m.

There was no need for executive session, so the meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

CLARK AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
LEAVING A LEGACY

WE'RE GEARING UP FOR CLARK AREA DAY OF GIVING

Plan for our Burger Feed and Bake Sale on November 27

WEATHER			
Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer			
	HI	LO	PR
November 5	47	31	0
November 6	42	34	0
November 7	43	26	0
November 8	54	30	0
November 9	58	30	0.04
November 10	49	42	0.07
November 11	49	31	0
2024 precipitation to date 19.39"			
2023 precipitation to date 18.32"			