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The hometown newspaper of Joel Foster, Milbank, S.D.

54th annual Clark Area Snow Queen is Saturday, November 26

This is the 54th year of the Clark Area Snow Queen Festival. The Clark Area Snow Queen Festival will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 26, at the Clark High School gym.

Melissa Mudgett will be the emcee.

Current Snow Queen Teagan Ortberg and Junior Snow Queen Samantha Brenden will make their final walks across the stage as reigning royalty and will speak on the last year's experiences.

There will be Junior and Senior Talent contests this year.

The senior snow queen contestants are Zoie Hyatt, Kayla Jordan and Avery Miles.

Junior Snow Queen contestants include Cadence Bocek, Olivia Fuller, Zoey Helkenn, Zoe Nichols and Ella Vandersnick.

Little Mis contestants are Lay-

la Arthur, daughter of Jacob and Kelsey Arthur; Akwata Cronauer, daughter of Mark and Tammy Cronauer; Nora Hagstrom, daughter of Shane and Stephanie Hagstrom; Dawsyn Hilmoe, daughter of Dean and Rhonda Hilmoe; Ada Mohr, daughter of Shawn and Claire Mohr; Gretta Osterloh, daughter of Mark Osterloh and Angie Osterloh and Brynn Woodring, daughter of Garret and Carly Woodring.

Little Master contestants are Briar Conrad, son of Eric and Lindz Conrad; Kellison Demory, son of Michael and Amanda Demory; Henry Helkenn, son of Wes and Lacey Helkenn; Jameson Marx, son of Jimmy and Trisha Marx; Rowan Marx, son of Greg and Meghan Marx; Maverick McGraw, son of Sean and Betty McGraw; Taylor Mickelson, son of Andrew and Nicole Mickelson; Charlie Meier, son

of Garret and Alexandra Meier and Cullen Peterson, son of Travis and Krysta Peterson.

Mystery Snowperson Clue

54th Annual Snow Queen Festival Mystery Snowperson Contest
Frosty says: "I wear a lot of hats, but domestic Goddess isn't one of them. Might not be the oldest at my place of business, but I've been there the longest. Haven't been on time in 30 years. I married a brown-eyed man and we raised a brown-eyed man."

Send guesses to: Erin Heiman, 17746 426th Ave., Clark, SD 57225 or email: clarksnowqueen@gmail.com

Clark School Board discusses 2023-24 calendar, capital outlay and Department of Education 21-22 report card

The November meeting of the Clark School Board of Education lasted just over an hour before heading into executive session. The major areas of discussion were the 2023-24 school calendar, capital outlay for the next five years and the 2021-22 Department of Education report card.

Regarding the calendar for next school year, it is very similar to this year's calendar, with the exception of Easter. Next year, Easter break will be at the end of March instead of the beginning of April, as the holiday is slightly earlier in the year. Start date, end date and in-service

was also discussed.

A question was brought to the school board regarding teacher in-service days and why they see some teachers out in the community on those days. Superintendent Travis Ahrens explained that some teachers take their personal and sick time to cover needed appointments etc., instead of using instruction days.

Also asked was a question regarding half days and if they could be utilized for in-service and instruction so that they could be counted in the school calendar. This would allow for a potential later

school start date. Ahrens replied that at this time in-service days are a valuable asset and the whole day is utilized.

Review of capital outlay was not a lengthy discussion in totality. A rough overview of the next few years and things to come will be reviewed in more detail at a later meeting. The locker replacement that was proposed for this year has been approved and lockers were ordered and will be replaced during summer break.

A recent roof repair at the high school proved to be more tedious than what was originally thought. The repairs were supposed to take a few hours but instead took two weeks. However, the project is now complete.

A large, unexpected and upcoming expense is the plumbing at the elementary. The newly opened teachers' bathroom has allowed plumbing issues to become noticeable. There may be calcification of some of the pipes. The school is working with a company to get an assessment and estimate.

The Department of Education released the results of the 2021-22 report card in reference to the Smarter Balance testing that students complete in the fall and spring each year. The areas on the report where Clark School District was above or at the state average included: on-time graduation, high school completion, and college and career readiness, which was broken down into how many graduates go on to higher education, ACT and Accuplacer scores, coursework, assessment, and college and career readiness.

The areas where Clark School District fell below the state average were English, Language Arts and Mathematics. Ahrens said, "The point of smarter balance testing is to see where we are and what steps we can take to improve from that position. What is working and what isn't. What are the weaknesses we can shore up and improve and how we can do it. We should be in a constant state of growth."

Administration agreed regarding the results and being proactive about finding solutions. One of the suggested solutions is to present questions from smarter balance

Clark School Board

(continued on page 3)

WEATHER

Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
November 8.....	40	16	0
November 9.....	47	38	0.05
November 10.....	39	32	1.62
November 11.....	33	13	0.01
November 12.....	20	13	0.02
November 13.....	18	14	0
November 14.....	26	17	0.04
2022 precipitation to date	20.20		
2021 precipitation to date	24.16		



Every Veterans Day, the Clark School does a very nice job of saying 'Thank You, Veterans' with a program of music, symbolism and patriotism. The above photo shows many Clark veterans during a solemn moment.

Clark School honors veterans

Every year, many very nice things are said after the Clark School Veterans Day Program. Such was the case this year as the school 'does itself and the community proud', with an hour-long program, showing thankfulness and appreciation to all veterans.

The program was held Friday, November 11, Veterans Day.

The entire school took part in the program, and each year the

program showcases talent, K-12, in thanking the veterans.

The speaker was Retired Army Officer Darin Lewis. Lewis spoke of the pride that comes with serving in the military, and he shared a few stories and helped bring what it means to serve one's country to those at the Clark School Veterans program.

It is hard to cover 22 years of military leadership, by Lewis, in a

small paragraph, as he had experience in leadership, management, safety and contract oversight of programs up to 11 million dollars a year. He commanded/lead organizations from 30 contractors to 385 soldiers and 42 contractors. He commanded in combat and was used to multi-tasking in stressful situations.

Clark Veterans (continued on page 3)



Madison Pickrel, left, won first place and Neveah Rusher, right, won third place in the nation for FCCLA Skill Demonstration Events. Pickrel was awarded a \$15,000 scholarship and Rusher a \$5,000 scholarship.

Pickrel wins first place in National FCCLA Skills Demonstration Events

▲ Rusher earns third place honors

Madison Pickrel and Neveah Rusher from Clark FCCLA traveled to Columbus, Ohio, November 11-13, 2022, for the 2022 Family, Career and Community Leaders (FCCLA) National Fall Conference (NFC). Over 1,200 attendees from across the nation gathered to hear from industry experts, engage in leadership workshops, network with peers and explore career pathways in Human Services, Hospitality and Tourism, Education and Training, and Visual Arts and Design.

In addition, Madison and Neveah represented Clark FCCLA at NFC by competing in the "Speak Out for FCCLA" Skill Demonstration Event. Skill Demonstration Events provide opportunities for members to demonstrate college- and career-ready skills in Family

and Consumer Sciences and related occupations. Over 375 students participated in the Skill Demonstration Events Competitions. Pickrel placed first in the nation and Rusher placed third. Along with the awarded plaque, both girls received a scholarship from Sullivan University. Pickrel received a \$15,000 scholarship, while Rusher won a \$5,000 scholarship. Both girls went on stage in the closing ceremony to receive their award.

Attending NFC and participating in Competitive Events such as Skill Demonstration Events equips students with the tools, knowledge and opportunities needed to be college and career-ready. Members utilize the skills learned and experiences gained through FCCLA to improve their families, careers and communities.

Long-term facility plan public meeting held at Willow Lake School on Monday

A Willow Lake School long-term facility plan public meeting was held Monday, as part of the Willow Lake November School Board meeting.

Held in the (old) auditorium, interested members of the community listened to the three CO-OP Architecture professionals talk of the building process and school building plans going forward.

Spencer Sommers, the master plan specialist from CO-OP Architecture, along with architects Levi Pfeil and Jason Kann talked needs and wants of the proposed \$9,800,000 building project. Superintendent Chris Lee also mentioned that there is approximately

\$500,000 of federal money available for the building project.

In a nutshell, this facility plan will better coordinate the entire school, elementary, middle school and high school and allow spacial continuity.

As enrollment continues to grow, splitting classes, having music in the middle, a commons area and kitchen with the gym stage available from two directions, are all visible Willow Lake School upgrades.

The architects spoke for about an hour, saying that this is the design stage with the bid stage being mid-winter with spring being a hopeful start date.

Superintendent Lee said that

the new wing won't affect day-to-day school activities and with a full summer for the remodel, in an ideal scenario, the finish will be by the start of the 2024 school term.

The following won't be all-inclusive, when asked, generally speaking, what will be done, Lee said, "We will convert the music room and FACS classroom to elementary flex classrooms, plus we will expand the tech coordinator space."

"The current multi-purpose room will be converted into the new music room. The current kitchen area will be a flex classroom. The current science room will be converted to

Willow Lake School (continued on page 7)



Pictured from left to right are the veterans that served from 1970 to 1971; Ken Tarbox, U.S. Air Force 314th Airlift Wing Vietnam, who served from 1970 to 1971; Stephen Annett, RMCM U.S. Coast Guard, who served from 1966 to 1971; Jerry Denman, U.S. Navy (South China Sea) who served from 1970 to 1971; Darwin Clyde, United States Marine Corps, who

Local Vietnam Veterans visit area high schools

Last week, leading up to Veterans Day, the Northeast Chapter of Vietnam Veterans was busy visiting area high schools. During their visits, the vets shared their experiences in Vietnam with the students.

For each of the area schools, a local Vietnam veteran was chosen to speak who served in a branch of the military such as air force, marines, navy, coast guard and army. Some

of the veterans even had a chance to speak to students at the schools they graduated from.

The Vietnam War was very controversial in its time. The veterans spoke about their personal experience in the war and the details of their tours. Some of the experiences were difficult to imagine and individual to each veteran, such as their day-to-day duties, experiences

being without resources for a month and sleeping in fox holes.

The one thing that was consistent from all of the speakers was the sense of brotherhood and camaraderie. Each vet told of the family they gained during their time in Vietnam. Even though they en-

Vietnam Veterans (continued on page 3)