

Happy Thanksgiving!
The *Clark County Courier* office will be closed **Thursday, November 28** for the holiday.



Current Junior Snow Queen Brynn Roehrich, left and Senior Snow Queen Nevaeh Rusher, right, will relinquish their titles this Saturday. The 2024 Clark Area Snow Queen Festival is set for 6:00 p.m. at Clark High School.

Photo by Heather Jordan

56th annual Clark Area Snow Queen is Saturday, Nov. 30

This is the 56th year of the Clark Area Snow Queen Festival. The Clark Area Snow Queen Festival will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 30 at the Clark High School gym.

Current Snow Queen Nevaeh Rusher and Junior Snow Queen Brynn Roehrich 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. Melissa Mudgett will be the emcee.

The senior snow queen contestants are: Valley Roebke, Hannah Heiman and Katelynn Merkel of Clark and Kaylyn Hofer and Samantha Brenden of Willow Lake.

Junior Snow Queen contestants include: Kamryn Nesheim, Lexie Schmidt, Ella Sass, Tatum Ortberg, Baylar Lamb, Grady Huber, Macy Ingraham and Alayna Merkel of Clark and Selma Nelson, Madison Brenden and Chyanne Guerdet of Willow Lake.

Little Miss contestants are: Alicia Reppe, daughter of Alex and Ashely Reppe; Braelynn Guerdet, daughter of Mackenzie and Dustin Guerdet; Rori Schaack, daughter of Newt and Britany Schaack; Hallie Raelynn Carroll, daughter of Clarissa Daniels and Taylor Carroll; Marlen Joy Luvaas, daughter of Nathan and Amy Luvaas; Akech Cronauer, daughter of Mark and Tammy Cronauer; Maddison Prouty, daughter of Logan and Cheyenne Prouty; Ivy Conrad, daughter of Eric and Lindsay Conrad; Alyssa Johnson, daughter of Trevor and Amanda Johnson; Mila Bokinskie, daughter of Chris and Mel Bokinskie; Brinkley Stern, daughter of Kyle and Denae Stern; Kailee Jo Huber, daughter of Jesse and Tara Huber; and Aubree Mickelson, daughter of Drew and Nicole Mickelson.

Little Master contestants include: Cash Butler, son of Rick and Jen Butler; Rivvan Marquard, son of John and Brandi Marquard; and

Clayton Arthur, son of James and Stephanie Arthur.

All former Clark Area Senior Snow Queens: Barbara Warkentien 1970; Margaret Hess 1971; Jean Olverson 1972; Pam Obermeier 1973; Penny Heig 1974; Debra Gully 1975; Judy Linneman 1976; Theresa Patnoe 1977; Jenny Kirkeby 1978; Robin Neal 1979; Crystal Fletcher 1980; Natalie Sundvold 1981; Sandy Linneman 1982; Diane Schlueter 1983; Lynn Baldwin 1984; Mary Chapin 1985; Lori Paulson 1986; Sara Jo Wheeler 1987; Amy Schuster 1988; Amy Mahlen 1989; Amy Lane 1990; Cindy Berens 1991; Myra Chapin 1992; Gwen Warkentien 1993; Angel Paulson 1994; Heidi Pommer 1995; Stacy Mohr 1996; Cristina Pollock 1997; Brandis Graves 1998; Jenny Roehrich 1999; Courtney Neill 2000; Cindy West 2001; Abby Monnens 2002; Nicole Cornelius 2003; Kandice Hanley 2004; Amanda Gill 2005; Samantha McGraw 2006; Michelle Hollatz 2007; Laura Warkentien 2008; Arielle Slobotski 2009; Amanda Nelson 2010; Andrea Paulson 2011; Jill Stern 2012; Hannah Steffen 2013; Annabell Ryan 2014; Brooke Reidburn 2015; Kathryn Paulson 2016; Jocee Nelson 2017; Laney Ulschmid 2018; Saylor Burke 2019; Saylor Burke 2020; Tianna Tschetter 2021; Teagan Ortberg 2022; Avery Miles 2023; Nevaeh Rusher 2024.

December 3 is the day to give!

The National Day of Giving takes place on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. This year, it will be on December 3. National Day of Giving was created to unleash the power of generosity by giving to those in need or to charities. Non-profits and charitable organizations usually participate in end-of-year fundraisers.

The Clark Area Community Foundation, Clark Rotary Club, Clark Lions Club, The Amazing Race, the Clark Elementary School and local churches are participating this year in the sixth annual Day of Giving set for December 3. Non-profit 501(c)(3) organizations across the Nation unite to celebrate generosity before the sun comes and well after the sun goes down by asking their community of supporters to come together, and raise as much money as humanly possible. All the money will stay in Clark County to help a community need or go to your favorite organization as a thank you for all the hard work they have done in the community.

This is the time to support your favorite non-profit organization, or your donation will go to a variety of community needs, which could include: Clark and Willow Lake school backpack programs, food for local ICAP, school lunch programs, Clark after school program, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, Ministerial Association, CAT group, local Special Olympics, Clark Fire Department, Emil M. Larson Public Library and more. Last year, over \$28,000 was raised.

In conjunction with the Clark Area Day of Giving, the Clark Lions Club hosted a pancake feed on Sunday, November 24 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and were able to raise approximately \$2,000.

The Clark Rotary Club and Clark Area Community Foundation (CACF) are hosting a burger feed today, November 27. There will also be a bake sale, hosted by local churches, taking place at the Plymouth Congregational Church from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Some of the bake sale items include: pies, bars, cakes, buns, cookies and other assorted goodies. "Let us do your holiday baking!" exclaimed Gayle Wooksey and Dala Albright. Wooksey is the president of CACF, Albright is the president of the Clark Rotary Club. Students at Clark Elementary School have been participating in

Day of Giving is Dec. 3
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Several Clark-Willow Lake Cyclone football players were recognized for their 2024 season achievements during their annual awards banquet on November 19 in Willow Lake. Pictured with their awards, from left to right are

Cyclone football celebrates 2024 season

By Heather Jordan

The Clark-Willow Lake football team commemorated their 2024 season at their annual awards banquet on November 19 at the Willow Lake High School.

Votes were cast by all team members and the Cyclone coaching staff to recognize standout play of throughout the 2024 season.

Cyclone Football award winners include:

Most Improved, Lincoln Reidburn; Most Valuable Player Offense, Griffin Musser; Most Valuable Play-

er Defense, Griffin Musser; Most Valuable Player Lineman, Seth Poppen; and Cyclone Award, Levi Atkins.

Senior Josh Kannegieter was also honored as an All-State Defensive End recipient.

In the Eastern Coteau Conference, Coach David Severson was named as the 11-man Coach of the Year, while senior Griffin Musser was named as the 11-man Eastern Coteau Conference offensive Most Valuable Player. Other Cyclone players named to the ECC All-Con-

ference team were Josh Kannegieter, Emmerson Larson and Jakob Steen. Honorable Mention awards went to Elliot Bratland and Ky Vandersnick.

Named as Northeast All-Conference selections include Griffin Musser, Josh Kannegieter, Emmerson Larson, Jakob Steen, Elliot Bratland and Michael Severson. Masyn Knock and Seth Poppen were both Honorable Mentions.

Academic All-State players named were Elliot Bratland, Josh Kannegieter and Griffin Musser.



Clark-Willow Lake Cyclone volleyball players receiving plaques during their annual awards banquet are pictured above. From left to right are Kate Larson, Samantha Brenden, Shelby Begeman, Shay Michalski, Calla Larson, Valley Roebke and Avery Lee. Not pictured: Hannah Heiman.

Cyclone volleyball honors awarded for 2024 season

By Heather Jordan

The Clark-Willow Lake volleyball team celebrated their 2024 season at their annual awards banquet on November 22.

Votes were cast by all team members and the Cyclone coaching staff to recognize the efforts of outstanding play throughout the 2024 season.

Cyclone Volleyball award winners include:

Most Improved, Shelby Begeman; Most Valuable Player Offense, Shay Michalski; Team Captain, Shay Michalski; Team Captain, Samantha Brenden; All Around Most Valuable Player, Valley Roebke; JV Most Valuable Player, Calla Larson; Cyclone

Award, Avery Lee and Hannah Heiman.

Seniors Shay Michalski and Valley Roebke were named to the 2024 Lake Central Conference All-Conference Team, and Shay Michalski represented the Cyclones as an All-Conference selection in the Northeast Conference.

Clark Community Forum held Thursday, November 14

By Catie Noethlich

The Clark Community Forum that was held on Thursday, November 14 at the Clark Golf Club attracted a large turnout of over 50 attendees eager to discuss the progress Clark has made over the past six months.

Members of Clark's City Council, County Commissioners, school, Clark Chamber of Commerce and community members listened to presentations from the pool committee, hotel group and the baseball field expansion team, who shared their challenges, successes and timelines.

An area representative from the Department of Labor was present and provided information about a tax credit available to businesses that employ residents of Clark. The meeting coincided perfectly with a visit from the South Dakota School of Mines research team, who came to learn more about a recycling project and introduce themselves to the community.

Below are some key takeaways and quotes from each presentation.

Clark Chamber of Commerce: "Anything is possible when a commu-

nity comes together. The generations of this town have the opportunity to develop new attractions while maintaining our small town atmosphere. The meeting was very informative and encouraging but also shows that there is a great need for teamwork to accomplish all that this town desires. I'm thankful for Catie (Noethlich) with Choose Clark County for working hard on being resourceful and innovative. She's a great asset to Clark County, and I am looking forward to working together in the future to make Clark an even better community to live in. I hope that all who attended the meeting saw the potential for Clark and the teamwork that is necessary to accomplish our goals!" said Lacey Helkenn, chamber president.

Air Stay Hotel: The planned hotel will feature 10 rooms with kitchenettes, with two of the rooms designed with additional accessibility upgrades. Department of Labor: There is a tax credit available for Clark businesses that employ both part-time and full-time residents. However, attracting new businesses to town remains a challenge since unemployment rates in the county and state are now below three percent. Baseball Field Expansion: This project is expected to be completed in five years to avoid conflicting with the pool's fundraising efforts. It aims to create more space for play and practice for our growing baseball and softball programs. Wind Tower Recycling Project: Introductions were made to the research team from the South Dakota School of Mines after they visited the Crocker Wind Farm to gather hands-on information necessary for advancing reuse projects focused on fiberglass.

Choose Clark County: While there is general agreement on the

housing shortage, there is currently no coordinated plan to address it. The focus will be on developing a list of available lots for sale within the community to facilitate accessor interested buyers. Additionally, Choose Clark County aims to be a resource for low-interest loans, education and home improvement assistance as part of a comprehensive strategy to tackle housing challenges. This will be complemented by a community project aimed at creating a more inviting and visually appealing Commercial Street, incorporating greenery and collaborating with community groups for community clean-up efforts.

The forum was also joined by Rita Anderson from the Desmet Economic Development Group, who will assist Choose Clark County in replicating the success seen in Desmet.

Overall, the forum was a great success, providing valuable information about ongoing projects. The goal is to hold this forum annually to gather community feedback and provide updates on various initiatives and needs.

While there is general agreement on the

WEATHER			
Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer			
	HI	LO	PR
November 19	48	33	1.00
November 20	39	21	0.17
November 21	24	16	0.08
November 22	25	14	0
November 23	35	19	0
November 24	33	28	0
November 25	33	9	0.04
2024 precipitation to date 20.78"			
2023 precipitation to date 18.40"			