



Junior Snow Queen Zoey Helkenn, left, and Senior Snow Queen Avery Miles, right, are all smiles after being crowned at the 54th Annual Clark Area Snow Queen Festival on Saturday.

Helkenn and Miles will now compete in their respective South Dakota Snow Queen Festivals in January, in Aberdeen.

Photo by Heather Jordan

Avery Miles is 2023 Snow Queen

Zoey Helkenn crowned Junior Snow Queen

Avery Miles was crowned the 2023 Clark Area Snow Queen at Saturday evening's 54th Annual Snow Queen Festival. Retiring Senior Snow Queen Teagan Ortberg passed on the crown to this year's winner. Miles will represent the Clark area at the upcoming South Dakota State Snow Queen Festival in January in Aberdeen.

Miles is the daughter of Preston and Jenny Miles of Doland. Miles was also named this year's Miss Congeniality. The first runner-up was Zoie Hyatt, daughter of Jarvis and Tessa Hyatt of Henry.

Zoey Helkenn, daughter of Randy and Andrea Helkenn of Clark was crowned Junior Snow Queen by retiring queen Samantha Brenden. Helkenn will represent the Clark area at the South Dakota Junior

Snow Queen Festival in January. First runner-up was Zoe Nichols, daughter of Brock and Carolyn Nichols of Willow Lake.

Melissa Mudgett was the returning emcee for the night, and Louann Streff was the Mystery Snowman, correctly guessed by Bev Splinter.

Crowned as Little Miss was Ada Mohr, daughter of Shawn and Claire Mohr. Little Master was Rowan Marx, son of Greg and Meghan Marx.

This year's talent section saw six performers with Kaylyn Hofer winning the Senior Talent portion and Naveah Reitz with the Junior Talent portion.

The entire program was coordinated by the Clark Area Snow Queen Committee and was sponsored by many area businesses.

Remember to recycle this Friday in Clark

Every first and third Friday of the month, Cook's Waste Paper and Recycling picks up recycling in Clark at no additional cost to residents. Recycling can be placed inside a box, tote without a lid, or personal garbage bin. Cook's prefers not to have recycling bagged.

Below is a list of acceptable items for recycling:

Empty aerosol cans, aluminum cans, aluminum trays, steel or tin food and beverage cans (rinsed), any plastic food and beverage cartons with caps, any plastic bottles, jugs and tubs with attached caps, paperback books, chipboard, corrugated cardboard, magazines, catalogs, junk mail, newspapers and inserts, office paper, paper egg cartons and shredded paper. All paper items must be clean and dry, and shredded paper should be in a clear tied plastic bag.

Anything that is not listed above should not be considered recyclable. For further information or items listed as unacceptable, you can visit the recycling center tab on Cook's Wastepaper and Recycling website at cookwaste.com

Recycling is important for many reasons, small towns and individuals are no exception. Even if the amount of recycling seems small, it still makes a significant difference.

Recycling reduces the amount of waste sent to already overfilled landfills. Conservation of natural resources such as timber, water and minerals is another benefit of recycling. Not only does recycling prevent pollution, but it saves energy and increases economic security by tapping a domestic source of materials.

WEATHER

Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
November 22.....	36	17	0
November 23.....	40	25	0
November 24.....	50	26	0
November 25.....	39	29	0
November 26.....	50	29	0
November 27.....	48	21	0
November 28.....	36	18	0
2022 precipitation to date	20.30		
2021 precipitation to date	24.16		

Tony's Collision Center has been serving the Clark community for over a decade

Shop owner Tony Werdel opened his doors in Clark ten years ago. Werdel attended college at WYO-Tech in Laramie, Wyoming for Auto Body and Custom Fabrication and has been working in the field since 2000. "The industry has changed entirely since I started," said Werdel. There is plenty of information and continuing education available online that Werdel works hard at to stay on top of the newest and most economical trends.

"Ten years ago we used solvent paint to paint vehicles. Now, everything that we spray out of the shop is chemical free. The quality of the paint is three times better than it was then," stated Werdel. Years ago when most of the industry was on the fence about changing solvents over to water based, Tony's Collision and Repair began to try the water based paint when approached by their salesmen. Werdel mentioned that the company they used had it figured out before it hit the market and is still the product they choose for their shop today.

The quality of vehicles has changed quite a bit over the years. When a wreck happens, and it seems there is a bunch of broken plastic, Werdel says what matters is what is happening behind the plastic. "What is happening behind the plastic is far and beyond the 1980's vehicles with the steel bumpers, and it is a huge jump forward even with all of the plastic" said Werdel. Werdel explained that the major difference during a collision in a vehicle with steel is that the shock wave goes through the cab versus with plastic, the shock wave goes up and over the windshield and roof and out the tail lights, which is safer for the passengers in the vehicle.

Other major changes over the last decade have a lot to do with the electric component of car making that happens today. Werdel stated, "Years ago, I could swap a mirror out on any car. Now, it has to be a specific part and programmed for the vehicle, or it will not operate as it should". Because of this, the shop steers away from anything after market. This programming is required for almost any replacement parts including windshields, mirrors, door handles and more. Tony's Collision Center has acquired the machines needed to program computerized parts and a Hawkeye that is used to program replacements on vehicles that have safety



Tony Werdel is the owner and operator of Tony's Collision Center of Clark. He's been in business for a decade.

features such as lane change alerts and automatic high beams.

Other updates in the shop include a machine to add a newer kind of freon which allows the business to be more versatile and in a position to serve more people with different needs. Tony's Collision Center works with all insurance companies and on all vehicles including semi-trucks. Werdel says

that as a small business owner, he places priority on quality of work, as that is what will drive more business there. "When you walk in the door, you are not a number, and your car is not a number," said Werdel. Werdel says he teaches his employees and children to go the extra

Tony's Collision
(continued on page 8)

Two familiar faces to lead Cyclone girls basketball in 2022-23

The Clark-Willow Lake Lady Cyclones will go up against Waubay/Summit in Willow Lake Thursday, December 8 in the season opener. The Clark-Willow Lake girls basketball team has both a new head coach and assistant coach this year.

"I'm hoping that we are more competitive this season with all the teams on our schedule," head coach Andrea Begeman said. "We return with a lot of experience, so hoping that helps us to have success." Half of this year's returning team are seniors, juniors and sophomores.

"We have some nice shooters and girls who are willing to work hard to make this a great season. I've been really pleased with the girls' attitudes and effort at the first few practices and we have a great group of seniors to lead us," added Begeman.



New girls basketball head coach Andrea Begeman, left, and new assistant coach Shannon Huber, right.

Begeman is new to coaching in Clark this year but no stranger to the court. Begeman was a 2001 Clark High School graduate who began her basketball career during that time. She then went on to play for Augustana College graduating in 2006. For the next 14 years, Begeman was the head girls basketball coach at Sioux Falls Christian and led them in two state tournaments throughout that time.

"I knew I wanted to be a coach after my experiences playing high school sports in Clark," said Begeman. "I had great coaches in basketball, volleyball and track and wanted to keep sharing my love of

basketball at the high school level. High school activities are such a great extension of the learning that happens in school, and I want to be part of that positive experience for

students," Begeman said in regards to her passion for coaching.

Andrea and her husband Brooks Begeman, who was her assistant coach at Sioux Falls Christian for

11 years, moved back to her hometown of Clark before the 2022-23 school year began. They brought with them their four children, Bo (eighth grade), Shelby (sixth grade), Sadie (third grade) and Colt (kindergarten). Begeman says all of her children have a love for sports, especially basketball and are enjoying the small school atmosphere here in Clark.

In addition to a new head coach, Clark native Shannon Huber is the new assistant coach. "I have been helping with youth basketball these last few years and am super excited for the opportunity to help coach Begeman as she continues her coaching journey with this great young group of girls at Clark-Willow Lake," said assistant coach Huber.

"The thing that I am most excited about, is the opportunity to work with these young ladies to reach their highest potential both as role models in our schools and communities, and on the basketball court," she added.

Huber grew up on a farm near Raymond and attended Clark High School. During school, Huber participated in multiple sports and went on to play basketball in college at South Dakota State University. Huber had the opportunity to coach basketball at Presentation College in Aberdeen for a year before giving

GBB
(continued on page 5)



Pictured above is Aurora Carnes of Bradley. Carnes has been hunting for three years, and this is her first buck. Carnes made a heart shot on a four point by five point buck in Woodland Township opening weekend.

Good opener to the deer season

South Dakota East River deer season opened Nov. 19 and will close Dec. 4. "Even with the colder weather, the opening weekend was busy and saw a lot of good bucks harvested. Several were passed up that will make great bucks next year," said Clark County Game Fish & Parks Conservation Officer Zach Thomsen.

"Now that the weather is warming up, the hunters and the deer are slowing down," added Thomsen. While East River deer season ends this week, there is an extend-

ed doe season starting Dec. 10 and running through Dec. 18. Tags for the extended season are valid only for white tail antlerless deer. Hunters with an Any Deer tag left over will not be valid during the extended season. Muzzleloader season is opening Dec. 1 through Jan. 1, and there are still tags available for white tail antlerless tags for this season.

Thomsen said violations seemed higher this year with trespassing

Deer Season
(continued on page 8)