



Junior Snow Queen Brynn Roehrich, left, and Senior Snow Queen Nevaeh Rusher, right, were crowned at the 55th Annual Clark Area Snow Queen Festival on Sunday at the Clark High School gym. Roehrich and Rusher will now compete in the South Dakota Snow Queen Festivals in their respective age divisions in January in Aberdeen.

Photo by Heather Jordan

Nevaeh Rusher crowned 2024 Snow Queen

▲ Brynn Roehrich is 2024 Junior Snow Queen

By Carolynn Olson

Nevaeh Rusher was crowned the 2024 Clark Area Snow Queen at Sunday evening's 55th Annual Snow Queen Festival. Avery Miles, 2023 Senior Snow Queen, passed on the crown to this year's winner. Rusher will represent Clark Area at the upcoming South Dakota State Snow Queen Festival in January held in Aberdeen.

Nevaeh is the daughter of Tammy Rusher of Clark. She was also named this year's Miss Congeniality.

Brynn Roehrich, daughter of Jason and Valerie Roehrich, was crowned Junior Snow Queen by last year's winner Zoey Helkenn. Roehrich will represent the Clark area at the South Dakota Junior Snow Queen Festival in January.

First runner-up for junior snow queen was Caitlyn Mudgett, daughter of Troy and Melissa Mudgett of Clark. The second runner-up was Hadley Gjerde, daughter of Roy and Sara Gjerde of Willow Lake.

Crowned as Little Miss was Olivia Reyes, daughter of Jackie Reyes

and Edwardo Reyes of Clark. Little Master was Owen Hardy, son of Braydon and Jenni Hardy of Clark.

This year's talent section saw six contestants, with Kaylyn Hofer of Willow Lake winning the Senior Talent portion and Kendra Warken-thien of Clark the Junior Talent portion.

The program was coordinated by the Clark Area Snow Queen Committee and was sponsored by many area businesses. Good Luck to the 2024 contestants at State Snow Queen!

Veteran Ken Tarbox reflects on his United States Air Force career and experiences

By Tara Knutson

In 1918, on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, a temporary cessation of conflict was observed between the Allied Nations and Germany in World War I. Since then, Veterans Day, observed as a legal holiday meant to honor and remember American Veterans of all wars, has been observed on November 11.

The selfless sacrifice and dedication veterans have shown our country is humbling. The stories and lessons one can learn from a veteran are important to pass down to each generation to ensure important moments do not get lost or forgotten with time. One can learn from Ken Tarbox and his experiences.

When Tarbox graduated from Bradley High School in 1967, he did not realize that an adventure of a lifetime would soon follow; one that would take him across the world. After high school, Tarbox spent one year in post-secondary education. When he did not register for his second year, he stated "I got my papers to be a ground pounder."

After taking the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery Test, he discovered he was best matched with the occupation of an airplane mechanic. Tarbox's older brother by two years, Leroy, was also in the Armed Forces as an airplane mechanic. Leroy was able to provide his two younger brothers with in-

sider knowledge of military life.

That insight did not fall on deaf ears as Tarbox decided to follow Leroy's guidance and footsteps and joined the United States Air Force. Ten years later, another Tarbox son left the family farm for military life. His brother Rick, also joined the Airforce and worked with the C5A cargo aircraft.

Tarbox's first military assignment was six weeks of basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. "Once you sign that paper, you are government property," he said.

Basic training was developed to prepare airmen mentally and physically to learn the basics of Air Force life. Respect is taught as a foundation for all military facets. Tarbox remembers a group of airmen walking into the chow hall when one soldier tripped on the steps. A fellow airmen laughed at the misstep. A superior officer witnessed this lack of respect and the offending soldier was ordered to salute a squirrel in a nearby tree all day in the hot Texas weather. "There is a right way, a wrong way and then the military way."

After basic training, Tarbox headed to Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, Texas, for thirteen weeks of continued training. His FTD, or Field Training Development, was at Langley Air Force Base in Hampton, Virginia.

Advanced skills learned through the Field Training Development (FTD) are a combination of technical school and on-the-job training. "School in the morning and working on the flight lines in the afternoon," Tarbox reminisces.

Then, it was off to Vietnam for this young Clark County man. But not before all of the immunizations before overseas travel were given. "You don't move a muscle when they start coming at you with those shots," he stated. Tarbox recalls bruises, sore arms and "men passing out on the steps" after the experience.

Tarbox's base was in southern Vietnam by the city of Saigon, now known as Ho Chi Minh City. Tan Son Nhut Air Force base was his home for the next 14.5 months. This base served as the focal point for the initial USAF deployment and buildup in South Vietnam in the early 1960s.

Tan Son Nhut was a large air force base that stationed servicemembers from the Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Units. There were often 80 C-130 aircraft on the base at a time. The base was also known to have commercial airplanes from France and Canada landing, often to deliver supplies and to take injured and deceased soldiers out of

Veteran Ken Tarbox (continued on page 10)



Veterans Day programs at area schools

Veterans Day is a time for us to pay our respects to those who have served the United States of America. For one day, we stand united in respect for our veterans. Veterans Day is Saturday, November 11, 2023.

This holiday started as a day to reflect upon the heroism of those who died in our country's service and was originally called Armistice Day. It fell on November 11 because that is the anniversary of the signing of the Armistice that ended World War I. However, in 1954, the holiday was changed to "Veterans Day" in order to account for all veterans in all wars.

We celebrate and honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

Veterans Day presents an opportunity for Americans to recognize, honor and thank active and retired military service personnel. Observances have been organized and will be hosted by area schools before Veterans Day this year, as it falls on a Saturday.

Clark

On Thursday, November 9, all veterans and spouses will be treated to rolls and coffee starting at 9:00 a.m. in the Clark High School commons area. The program will start in the CHS gym at 10:00 a.m.

The Presentation of Colors by the Clark Boy Scouts will start off the program, followed by the Parade of Veterans, while the High School Concert Band performs "Armed Forces Medley." Clark High School Student Body President Jack Helkenn will then welcome one and all to the program. The Pledge of Allegiance will be recited followed by the 7-12 choir singing the "Star Spangled Banner" and the High School Concert Band performing the "Armed Forces Medley."

The 'America White Table Set-

ting' put on by the Clark High School Student Council members, is a Veterans Day tradition. "Tell My Father" will then be sung by the High School Choir.

A video presentation of all Clark military members and all branches of the U.S. military, made by Brenda Jenkins, will give one and all a great patriotic feeling.

K-5 students will then sing "The Brave." After, "Taps" will be played as the Colors are retired by the Clark Boy Scouts. Student Council President Jack Helkenn will close the Veterans Day ceremony. "The Liberty March: John Phillip Sousa" will be performed as the Parade of Veterans exit.

Henry

The Henry Veterans Day program will be Thursday, November 9 at 10:00 a.m. in the school gymnasium. All are welcome to attend.

The elementary classes will be singing various songs in tribute to the veterans. Preschool and kindergarten students will sing "Thank You to Our Veterans." The first and second grade students will sing "Veterans, We Love You." Then, Nick Kranz of the Watertown American Legion Post 17 will give a speech about the importance of Veterans Day. After, the third and fourth grade students will sing "Thankful for the USA."

The fifth and sixth grade students will then perform sing "We Are Proud of Our Veterans," followed by a speech about Vietnam by Watertown American Legion Post 17 member Roger Papka. Then, the seventh and eighth grade students will sing "My

America," followed by a speech about Desert Storm by Jeremy Storm of the Watertown American Legion. Ashley Schultz will then give a speech about females in the military.

To end the program, the high school choir with sing "Let Freedom Sing", and the high school band will perform "America: Sweet Land of Liberty."

Willow Lake

On Friday, November 10, Willow Lake School will be presenting the Veterans Day program in the new gym at 10:00 a.m. Rolls and coffee will be served to area Veterans starting at 9:15 a.m. in the new gym concessions area. They are also invited to join the students for school lunch after the program. The public is invited to attend.

Shelby Anderson, senior class president, will welcome those attending followed by the Johnnie Fonken American Legion Post 113 Color Guard.

The fifth grade class will explain the meaning behind the 13 folds of Old Glory. The white table ceremony will be demonstrated by the class of 2024. The speaker at the Willow Lake Veterans Day program will be General Myrna Williamson. Steven Johnson will give the Invocation and Benediction.

Patriotic music will include: the high school choir performing the national anthem "The Star Spangled Banner;" kindergarten through second grade will be singing "My Country Tis of Thee;" third through fifth grade will sing "America the Beautiful;" the sixth through eighth grade students will perform "God Bless America."

"We owe them a debt of gratitude greater than we can ever pay back."

Greg Whitlock, Sec. of the S. D. Dept. of Veterans Affairs

Clark Area Day of Giving is November 22

By Carolynn Olson

The National Day of Giving takes place on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. This year, it will be on November 28. 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 Lions Club, Clark Rotary Club and local churches are participating this year in the fifth annual Clark Area Day of Giving, set for Tuesday, November 28. The Clark Area Community Foundation is challenging all local businesses. For every donation made, they will match up to \$5,000.00. All proceeds will stay in Clark County to help a community need or organization.

In conjunction with the National Day of Giving, the Clark Lions Club will be hosting a pancake feed on Sunday, November 19 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The Clark Rotary Club and Clark Area Community Foundation are hosting a burger

feed on Wednesday, November 22. There will also be a bake sale held that day, hosted by local churches, taking place at the Plymouth Congregational Church from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Some of the bake sale items will be pies, bars, cakes, buns and other assorted goodies. "Let us do your holiday baking!" exclaimed Gayle Wookey and Dala Albright. Wookey is president of the Clark Area Community Foundation, and Albright is president of the Clark Rotary Club.

Students at Clark Elementary School will be competing in the popular Penny War again this year. High school members of the Clark Area Community Foundation are in charge of the Penny War. They are Conner Mudgett, Nevaeh Rusher, Raigan Flatten and Lauren Luvaas. The Penny War started Monday and will go until Friday, November 17. As a reward, the winning class will have a pizza party. Last year, the first grade class won, raising \$1,400.

National Day of Giving last year. Portions of those proceeds went to Rose Hill Cemetery, Clark School meal program, ICAP and its programs, Clark Fire Department, Christmas Boxes and the local backpack program.

Wookey and Albright want to encourage everyone in the community to get involved this year and help with the cause.

WEATHER

Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
Oct. 31	39	13	0
Nov. 1	29	16	0
Nov. 2	41	23	0
Nov. 3	47	29	0
Nov. 4	48	27	0
Nov. 5	58	30	0
Nov. 6	64	38	0
2023 precipitation to date 18.93"			
2022 precipitation to date 17.15"			