



Getting the Clark Area Rec Center, located in the basement of the Plymouth Congregational-UCC church is quite a large task. Andrea Helkenn, above and the rec center committee are busy getting things finalized for a Saturday, December 4 opening.

Clark Rec Center at Plymouth Church basement to open this weekend

As the winter sports scene is upon us, the Clark Area Rec Center will be open.

"It will be a place for kids to come to and just hang out," said Andrea Helkenn, one of four Clark Area Rec Center committee members. The committee also includes Beth Severson, Melissa Mudgett and Betsy Kolden.

The Clark Rec Center will be located in the basement of the Plymouth Congregational-UCC. Helkenn received permission from the church council and her goal is to have it similar as it was before, in this location. It has been closed for over a decade.

"I loved it as a kid and always came here," Helkenn stated and she

would like to see that opportunity return for this generation of students.

The Clark Area Rec Center will be open to all area students in grades eight through 12, with special evenings for those in sixth and seventh grades, but that could be subject to change, said Helkenn.

"We are probably geared for junior high, freshman and sophomores," Helkenn said and added, "but we will just have to see."

Everyone is helping to get the rec center ready to go by this weekend.

This Friday, December 3, from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. will be a Parent

Clark Rec Center
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Clark senior Heath Hemmingson was chosen for this year's North Area Honor Band. He plays French horn.

30th Annual North Area Honor Band is Saturday

The 30th Annual South Dakota North Area Honor Band will present their concert on Saturday, December 4, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. at the Johnson Fine Arts Center on the campus of Northern State University. Dr. Rolf Olson, director of Bands, Professor of Trumpet, and Chair of the Music Department at Northern State University, is the director for this year's event.

The South Dakota North Area Honor Band was created when area

Honor Band
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Teagan Ortberg is 2022 Snow Queen

▲ Samantha Brenden crowned Junior Snow Queen

Teagan Ortberg was crowned the 2022 Clark Area Snow Queen at Sunday evening's 53rd annual Snow Queen Festival. Retiring Senior Snow Queen, Tianna Tschetter passed on the crown to this year's winner. Ortberg will represent the Clark area at the upcoming State Snow Queen Festival in January at Aberdeen.

Ortberg is the daughter of Matt and Lacey Ortberg. Miss Congeniality was Maggie Hovde, daughter of Cheryl Hovde.

Samantha Brenden, daughter of Butch and Erin Brenden was crowned Junior Snow Queen by retiring queen Emma Peterson. Brenden will represent the Clark area at the Junior Snow Queen Festival in January. First runner-up was Hannah Heiman, daughter of Heath and Erin Heiman and second runner-up was Talyn Ortberg, daughter of Matt and Lacey Ortberg. Reganne Miles, daughter of Preston Miles and Jenny Miles was also named Junior Snow Queen Miss Congeniality.

The emcee for the night was Melissa Mudgett and Belinda Hanson was the Mystery Snowman.

Crowned as Little Miss was Elie Spieker, daughter of Craig and Annie Spieker. Little Master was Hank Osterloh, son of Mark Osterloh and Angie Osterloh.

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



Junior Snow Queen Samantha Brenden, left and Senior Snow Queen Teagan Ortberg right, are all smiles after being crowned at the 53rd annual Clark Area Snow Queen Festival on Sunday.

Brenden and Ortberg will now compete in their respective South Dakota Snow Queen Festivals in January in Aberdeen.

La Niña expected to influence 2021-22 winter climate

La Niña conditions have been officially declared this season by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), but what does that mean for South Dakota's winter climate, and this year's outlook in particular?

According to Laura Edwards, South Dakota State University (SDSU) Extension State Climatologist, warm and wet conditions this fall have led a lot of people to wonder what South Dakota's winter might look like.

"The holiday season is here, and people are making their wish lists," Edwards says. "Some dream of a winter wonderland with kids hoping for snow days. Others wish for cold temperatures that can freeze the ground when calving starts later in the season. Yet others cross fingers for enough moisture to hold off severe drought from returning in 2022."

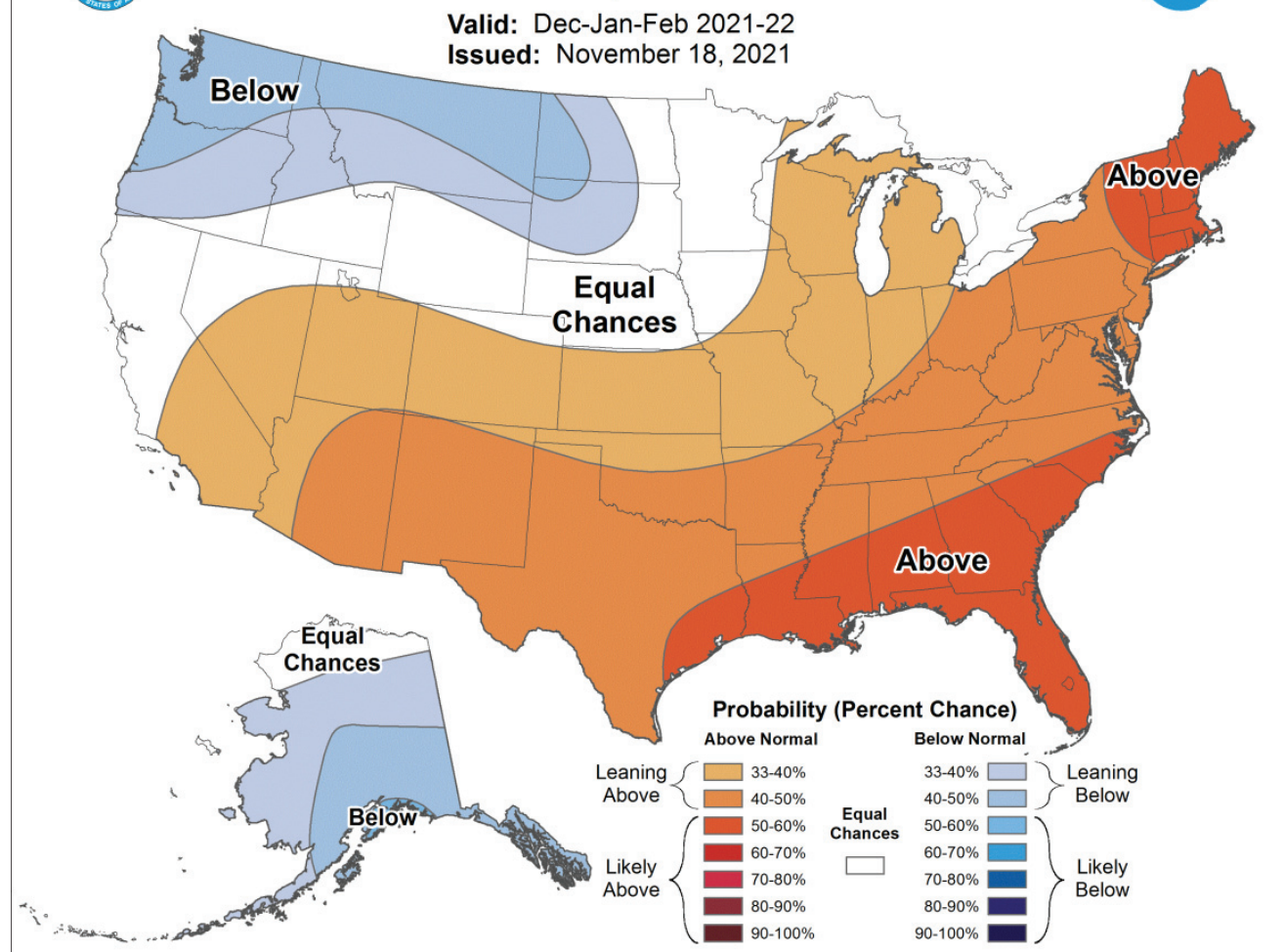
Edwards says no matter what you wish for, there might be a little of something for everyone this winter. The end of November and early December are likely to have near normal to warmer than average temperatures. At the same time, odds are leaning towards near normal chances of precipitation to drier than average.

"There is a fair amount of uncertainty among climate model forecasts for the coming winter, which could mean periods of both cold and warm and also snowy and dry conditions fluctuating throughout the season," Edwards says.

The outlooks for December and December through February were released by NOAA on Nov. 18. These outlooks indicate uncertainty in winter season precipitation in the Northern Plains region, including South Dakota.

"While the northwest and Great Lakes regions are favored to be wetter than average in the coming three months, the Dakotas lie in the middle with equal chances of wetter, drier or near average precipitation in that same period," Edwards says. "Southern tier states are fa-

Seasonal Temperature Outlook



Temperature outlook for Dec. 2021-Feb. 2022. Blue shading indicates increased likelihood of colder than average temperatures. Orange and red indicate increased likelihood of warmer than average temperature. Source: NOAA Climate Prediction Center

forecast to reach moderate strength sometime in the coming months." While the temperature outlook for December shows far southwest-

ern South Dakota with slightly enhanced odds towards warmer than average conditions, the rest of the

La Niña
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Downtown Christmas decorations help put people in a holiday mood

It is after Thanksgiving and time to get the Christmas decorations up. City employees Eric Brush and Tyler Silkman spent Monday morning of this week getting the downtown area of Clark dressed in holiday style.

As today is December 1, weather has been very conducive to one and all to get Christmas decorations and lights ready and everyone has really gone out of their way to put up some great holiday decor.

Clark School Christmas Elementary concert is Monday

The Clark School Elementary Christmas music concert, grades Pre-K - 5th, will be Monday, December 6 at 7:00 p.m. in the Clark High School gym.

The songs that will be presented by the students are: PreK & K - *I want to be an Elf*. First grade - *Hip Hop Reindeer*. Second and third grades - *Parade of the Wooden Bucket Band*.

The third and fourth grades will sing *Under Winter Moon* and the fourth grade will present *Sleigh B.A.G.* The fifth grade will sing *Highlife Christmas* and the fifth grade band will play *Merry Kisumu* and *When Santa's Away the Elves will Play*.

The elementary music instructor is Tabitha Schmidt.

WEATHER			
Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer			
	HI	LO	PR
Nov. 23	40	21	0
Nov. 24	55	25	0
Nov. 25	34	5	0
Nov. 26	27	5	0
Nov. 27	50	26	0
Nov. 28	45	22	0
Nov. 29	42	24	0
2021 precipitation to date	24.16		
2020 precipitation to date	18.21		



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