



Funfilled family entertainment during Christmas in Clark 2023 on Saturday

Christmas in Clark was held Saturday, December 2. Most of the day's activities, organized by the Clark Chamber of Commerce, took place at the Clark American Legion Hall. Kids were able to participate in various games and activities to win prizes, including a cake walk, cookie decorating, kids karaoke and many more. There were many fun characters to be seen at Christmas in Clark, including: Olaf, Elsa and Anna, the Grinch, Cindy Lou Who, Buddy the Elf, Gingerbread Man, Snowman and Santa and Mrs. Claus.

After the kids activities were over, the tree lighting took place at Flat Iron Park. Then, a free will donation meal was held at the Ulyot Building. The day ended with the Lighted Parade. There was plenty of fun to be had by all.

Some of the day's activities were captured in the photos above. Top left, sisters Monica Forest and Ann

Voorhes coordinated the cookie decorating table. Top middle, Alivia Gehrke was one of the high school volunteers running games at Christmas in Clark. Top right, Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus look oddly similar to Angie Osterloh and Scott Drexler.

Bottom left, Lacey Helkenn and her boys Henry and Brooks are getting candy from Buddy the Elf. Bottom middle, Layton Kirkeby is having fun playing with crayons to color his Christmas masterpiece. Watching Layton are his mom, Jenna Kirkeby, who is dressed as Elsa, and his grandma, Anna Kirkeby. Bottom right, the Gingerbread Man looks to get a high-five from a little one.

Photos by Carolynn Olson & Karli Paulson

Sunday School programs to be held in the area

Many children's Christmas programs in area churches will be held this holiday season. Christmas celebrations will continue as Christians in the community and around the world recognize the birth of the Savior and the new life he brought to the world.

Clark services

St. Michael Catholic Church will hold a children's program following 11:00 a.m. mass on December 17. The program will start at approximately 12:15 p.m.

At St. Paul Lutheran Church, a children's program will be held on December 17 during worship service at 9:00 a.m.

The Assembly of God Church will hold a Family Christmas program at 6:30 p.m. on December 10.

At the Plymouth Congregational UCC Church, there will be a Sunday morning program at 9:30 a.m. on December 17 during worship.

The Clark United Methodist Church's program will be at 10:00 a.m. during worship service on December 17 followed by a soup and sandwich lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. At 1:00 p.m. that afternoon, the annual Community Christmas concert will be held at the Clark United Methodist Church.

Raymond

On December 24, the Raymond Evangelical Lutheran Church will hold a Children's Christmas Ser-

vice at 6:30 p.m.

Willow Lake area

On December 24, the Willow Lake Evangelical Lutheran Church will hold a Children's Christmas Service at 4:00 p.m.

At Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Vienna, the Sunday School children will hold their program at 8:30 a.m. on December 17.

In Carpenter, the United Methodist Church will hold a children's Christmas program during Christmas Eve service on December 24 at 6:00 p.m.

Crocker

At Crocker Lutheran Church, a children's program will be held during worship on December 17 at 10:00 a.m.

Angel Trees are up in two Clark county locations

By Tara Knutson & Carolynn Olson

For many people, the Thanksgiving and holiday seasons are a joyous and busy time of year. Calendars get filled up with events such as concerts and holiday gatherings. But, for more and more Americans, uncertainty and financial burdens often accompany the upcoming holiday planning.

There are many potential factors that can lead to the extra financial stress of the holiday season, including inflation and the ending of many pandemic economic assistance programs. Other factors, such as loss of a job can squeeze the budgets of many Americans, according to Clark County Community Service worker Ashley Knudson.

It is at this point in the holiday preparation that local resources can provide some reprieve for families, decreasing stress and ensuring joy and happiness are present in everyone's holiday.

Locally, over 30 families, or approximately 100 people have requested to be recipients for holiday community programs such as the Angel Tree project and/or holiday food boxes.

Keeping in alignment with national data reporting higher food insecurities, Knudson noted that the food boxes have proven to be the biggest community need. Last year, ICAP assembled and distributed 35 boxes for Thanksgiving and 35 for Christmas. This year, there was 35 for Thanksgiving boxes and about 37 Christmas boxes.

"We have several elderly individuals and couples that have signed



Pictured above is the Angel Tree at Dacotah Bank in Clark. On the left is Dacotah Bank representative Heather Koons and right Clark Community Service Worker Ashley Knudson.

Photo by Carolynn Olson

up for those boxes," she stated. "This year, families have also requested both holiday boxes." Knudson reported that ICAP has received numerous donations for those need-

ed boxes.

The group meets approximately four days before distribution to assemble the boxes. The boxes are then ready to be distributed to families

on the Monday and Tuesday before Christmas. This year, the dates and times for pickup are December 18 and 19 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at ICAP in Clark. The contents of the boxes include all the staples of a traditional holiday meal, including a ham or turkey, vegetables, potatoes, sweet potatoes, brown sugar, marshmallows and pie filling.

The food boxes are available to all Clark county residents and are not dependent on financial needs. If someone is seeking a Christmas food box, they are encouraged to notify Ashley Knudson as a box can still be secured. She is thankful for those that have volunteered to help her pack.

The Angel Trees this year are located in the lobbies of Dacotah Bank in Willow Lake and Clark. The cards on the tree list the age and gender, along with ideas for needed or desired Christmas gifts of each child. This year, 47 child tags were hung. All tags need to be returned to the banks by December 13 and are then distributed to the families on December 18-19.

With the coming winter and the cold weather it brings, the ICAP center is also able to assist families with securing winter clothing, such as coats and boots if needed. Most of the winter clothing needs are for children, but adult sizes are available if needed.

If a family received notice of disconnect for their source of heat during the winter months, Knudson stated that she is able to assist

Angel Trees
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WEATHER			
Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer			
	HI	LO	PR
Nov. 28.....	24	9	0
Nov. 29.....	40	24	0
Nov. 30.....	49	25	0
Dec. 1.....	35	15	0
Dec. 2.....	34	16	0
Dec. 3.....	37	21	0
Dec. 4.....	30	21	0
2023 precipitation to date	19.09"		
2022 precipitation to date	18.92"		



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