



Pictured above are the Clark High School students attending SDSU's Honor Band Festival. Left to right: Mallory Nelson, euphonium; Waylan Olson, bass clarinet; Logan Seefeldt, percussion; and Leah Nelson, alto saxophone.

Photo by Amy Nelson

## Four Clark students selected to honor band festival at SDSU

By Carolynn Olson

This year, over 500 auditions were submitted for SDSU's Honor Band Festival, and 200 students earned a spot in either the honor band or festival band. Each individual had to submit an online audition in November 2023.

Those attending will spend Friday, February 23 practicing at South Dakota State University in Brookings and give a final concert at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 24 in the Oscar Larson Performing Arts Center on the campus of SDSU.

The Honor Band will be directed by Dr. Benjamin Lorenzo of Kent State University, and the Festival

Band will be directed by Dr. Erin Bodnar from the University of North Florida.

Clark High School students, including Leah Nelson, Mallory Nelson, Waylan Olson and Logan Seefeldt were accepted to attend and perform during the concert. Leah Nelson, second chair first alto saxophone, and Mallory Nelson, principal euphonium, will be performing as part of the Honor Band. Olson, principal bass clarinet, and Seefeldt, second chair percussion, will be part of the Festival Band.

The Nelson sisters will also get the chance to perform with the SDSU Wind ensemble in the concert as well.

## Clark MS/HS pops concert is Monday

By Carolynn Olson

The annual Clark School Pops Concert, featuring the high school choir, middle school choir, high school band and middle school band students, will be Monday, February 26 starting at 7:30 p.m. in the Clark High School gymnasium. Amy Nelson is the band and choir director.

The program will include the 6-8 grade choir singing *The Never Ending Story*, and *Turn, Turn, Turn; To Everything There is a Season*.

The 9-12 choir will sing *Chasing Cars*, *93 Million Miles* and *Show Yourself from Frozen 2*.

The 6-7 band will be playing *We Are Young*, *Can You Feel the Love Tonight* and *Gangnam Style*.

The evening will conclude with the 8-12 band performing *Despacito*, *Can't Help Falling in Love* and *Country Roads Take Me Home*.

## Seth Tarbox's NICU/PICU senior project

By Carolynn Olson

Clark High School senior Seth Tarbox is still accepting donations for his senior project until Friday, February 23.

The donation boxes are located at Ken's Food Fair, Dacotah Bank, Westside Implement, Clark High School and elementary school and Lewis Pharmacy.

Seth is accepting donations of NEW stuffed animals, toys, activity books, pacifiers, blankets, colors, markers and pencils. All donations will go to the Sanford NICU and PICU patients in Sioux Falls.



## Seven Cyclone wrestlers are state bound

These seven Clark-Willow Lake Cyclone wrestlers qualified for the South Dakota Class B Wrestling Tournament that will be held this Thursday through Saturday in Sioux Falls.

Pictured above, from left to right, are Austin Vig - third place; Cooper Pommer - second place;

Josh Kannegieter - first place; Danielle Batchelor - girls qualifier; Elliot Bratland - second place; Bryce Klancke - fourth place; and Cade Gaikowski - second place.

Photo by Christina Kannegieter

## Administrative contracts renewed at February meeting of Clark School Board

By Carolynn Olson

The Clark School Board met in regular session on February 12, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. in the Clark High School library. All members were in attendance, including: Todd Fjelland, Nathan Luvaas, Greg Marx, Malory McIntire and Lacey Orberg, along with administrators Travis Ahrens, Jennifer Heggelund, Jon Redmond and business manager Mary Nelson. The board entered executive session around 7:15 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:10 p.m.

Superintendent Travis Ahrens, Middle School and High School Principal/SPED Director Jennifer Heggelund, Elementary/Colony Principal/Title director Jon Redmond and Business Manager Mary Nelson were all offered contracts for the 2024-2025 school year with salaries to be determined at a later date.

During the meeting, Heggelund gave a presentation on NWEA MAPS. According to Heggelund, "The NWEA MAP (Northwest Evaluation Association Measures of Academic Progress) helps in guiding educational strategies we use with our students with an overall goal of maximizing student success."

NWEA MAP is a computer-adaptive assessment designed to mea-

sure a student's academic growth over time. Unlike traditional standardized tests that offer a one-size-fits-all approach, MAP adjusts the difficulty of questions based on a student's responses. This adaptive nature ensures that each student is challenged appropriately, providing a more accurate reflection of their abilities.

Students undergo NWEA MAP assessments in language, reading, math and science three times a year. "It is essentially a comprehensive evaluation that allows educators to gain insights into various facets of a student's academic development," Heggelund explained. From decoding complex texts to solving mathematical equations and understanding scientific concepts, MAP covers a wide spectrum of subjects.

The data collected from NWEA MAP assessments serves as a compass for educators, guiding them in crafting personalized learning experiences for each student. By pinpointing areas of strength and areas needing improvement, teachers can tailor their instruction to meet the diverse needs of their students effectively.

"While NWEA MAP assessments are fairly new to us in the Clark School District, the focus remains steadfast on unlocking the

full potential of every student," Heggelund stated. "By leveraging data-driven insights, personalized instruction and fostering a collaborative educational environment, we pave the way for students to thrive academically and beyond," she concluded.

### In other business:

[] On-going HVAC work and window installations are being completed at elementary school. The project was expected to be done last year, but due to not being able to get a crew together, it wasn't finished. The crew working on it now plan to work on the no-school days.

[] The following items were declared surplus at the meeting: 182 lunch trays, 28 round salad trays, 25 soup bowls, one 5+ gallon plastic tub, two large flour/sugar bins, two two-and-a-half quart handled kettles, one gallon handled kettle, two-gallon double boiler, meat slicer Model GC12, large electric mixer, flat top salad bar, a dozen one oz. stainless ladles and a Whirlpool 1000-watt microwave.

[] The elementary teacher in-service provided healthy discussion of behavior strategies.

The next regular meeting of the Clark School Board is scheduled for Monday, March 11, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

## Vehicle break-ins occur on Sunday in Clark

### ▲ Stolen vehicle, missing firearms

By Carolynn Olson

"We had approximately eight reports of vehicles being rummaged through and left in disarray in the overnight/early morning hours of Sunday, February 18," stated City of Clark Police Officer Nate Nickeson.

The break-ins happened on the north side of U.S. Highway 212, spanning from North Cloud to North Clinton Street. Most all vehicles that got broken into were left unlocked through-

out the night.

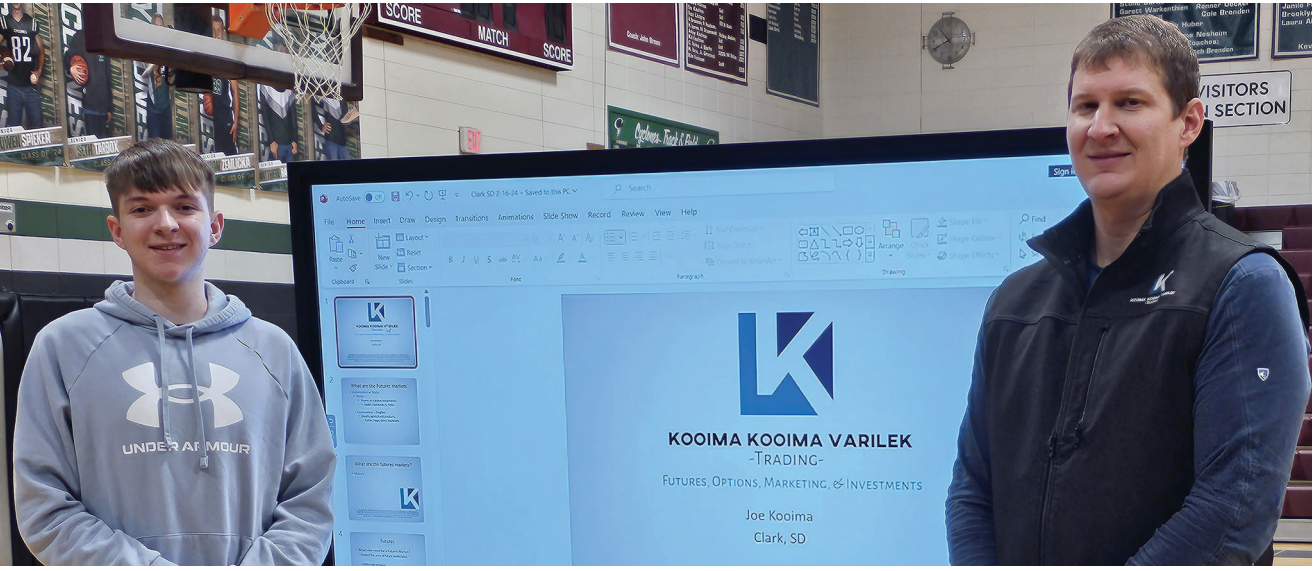
One vehicle was stolen and recovered shortly thereafter nearby, along with a couple of firearms reported missing.

The possible clothing description of the individuals were hoodies. One suspect was wearing a ball cap with some white on the front of it, and both individuals were carrying flashlights.

The Clark County Sheriff's Office is assisting in the investigation.

Officer Nickeson advises the public to check their camera systems between 4:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. for possible suspects and/or suspicious vehicles in those areas. He says this also serves as a reminder to lock your vehicles up.

The suspects have been located along. One suspect is in custody, not a juvenile. No firearms have been recovered at this time.



Last Friday, Clark High School senior Conner Mudgett, left, presented to a group of his peers and local farmers on marketing and management with his mentor Joe Kooima, right, from Kooima Kooima Varilek Trading, as part of his Senior Capstone Project.

Photo by Carolynn Olson

## Marketing, management with Conner Mudgett

By Carolynn Olson

Clark High School senior Conner Mudgett completed his Senior Capstone Project presentation on marketing and management with his mentor Joe Kooima last Friday in the Clark High School gymnasium. Mudgett presented his project to the Clark FFA chapter along with some young local farmers.

"I have always taken an interest in markets," Mudgett stated. "I had the opportunity to share my interests and help those who may also take an interest."

Joe Kooima, Mudgett's mentor, is a commodity broker from Kooima Kooima Varilek Trading out of Sioux Center, Iowa.

"My dad has worked with Joe for years," Mudgett explained. "He's al-

ways been out and about, helping and teaching the youth and young farmers about such a complex subject."

During the presentation, Kooima covered futures and options as well as LRP's (livestock risk protection) for feeder cattle. He broke them down further as how to hedge and speculate, how to read different types of charts and how LRP's work.

Kooima also simplified puts and calls. A Put is a contract giving the option buyer the right, but not the obligation, to sell or sell short a specified amount of an underlying security at a predetermined price within a specified time frame. A Call option is a contract between a buyer and a seller to purchase a certain stock at a certain price up until a defined expiration date. The buyer of a call has the right, not the

obligation, to exercise the call and purchase the stocks.

"I'd say I started to take an interest in this last summer," Mudgett said. "I got more involved in our family farm and that helped spark my interest," he explained. "The way the markets move and all the variables that go into markets just fascinates me!" Mudgett exclaimed.

After graduating high school, Conner's future plans are to attend Lake Area Technical College in Watertown for Commodity Merchandising. His hopes are to some day become a broker. Conner is the son of Troy and Melissa Mudgett of Clark. He has two younger siblings, Caitlynn, who is a freshman and Camden, who is in kindergarten.

## Legislative Cracker Barrel held on President's Day

By Carolynn Olson

On Monday, President's Day, a Legislative Cracker Barrel was held at Ulyot Building in Clark. The event was hosted by Clark Farm Bureau and Clark County Farmers Union. The meeting began at 10:00 a.m. and lasted a little over an hour.

Five legislators were present, and 15 people attended, a much smaller crowd compared to previous years. Participating were Senator David Wheeler, District 22 and Senator John Wiik, District 4. Representatives included Lyn Schneider, District 22; Roger Chase, District 22; and Fred Deutsch, District 4. Due to illness, Representative Stephanie Sauder of District 4 was not in attendance. Former Representative Lana Greenfield, who is a candidate for House District 22 was in attendance.

During introductions, Senator David Wheeler talked briefly about the increase of child pornography since the breakout of Covid. "AI child pornography is an important issue," Wheeler stated.

Senator Wheeler talked about SB79 which defines the types of pornography and charges and convictions that would follow depending on the degree of the offense. Governor Noem signed the bill into law after it went through both chambers with only one no vote.

The meeting started with a question asked by Clark Farmers Union president Gail Temple about land owners' rights. Senator John Wiik went over property rights and stated, "Just because it's an abandoned house, doesn't mean you can do as you please."

Representative Deutsch talked about the protection of rights as land owners. Senator Wheeler stressed, "It is incredibly important and must be protected. You can't just walk onto someone's property without permission."

Representative Chase talked about the importance of the pipe and windmills that have been on-going projects and stated, "They are important things, and we need to move forward and get it done."

A question was asked about an emergency clause for the pipeline bill 201 concerning health and safety.

Senator Wiik talked about construction at the South Dakota State Penitentiary, stating, "The prison is falling apart, and about 30 lawsuits a year are filed from the prisoners. It violates federal laws and is not handicap accessible." "The safety of the officers is also a concern," Wiik added. He concluded, "Something needs to be done; these people can't live in society."

Lana Greenfield asked about

the feral cat bill. Senator Wheeler explained, "It allows the release of cats after they are fixed." It was brought to their attention after many of the non-profit trap, neuter, spay and release groups found out that there was a law against abandoning animals after claiming ownership when getting them the care that they needed.

Wednesday is a crossover day in the S.D. Legislature, the day when bills that have been passed in either House or Senate are passed to the other chamber for consideration.

In 2025, the Legislative Cracker Barrel in Clark will be held once again on President's Day.

WEATHER			
Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer			
	HI	LO	PR
Feb. 13.....	41	23	0
Feb. 14.....	40	24	0
Feb. 15.....	28	9	0.29
Feb. 16.....	24	6	0
Feb. 17.....	11	3	0
Feb. 18.....	27	11	0
Feb. 19.....	34	15	0
2024 precipitation to date	0.63"		
2023 precipitation to date	0.83"		