

## Choose Clark County welcomes Catie Noethlich as new executive director

By Carolynn Olson

Choose Clark County welcomed their new Executive Director Catie Noethlich on February 1, 2024.

Choose Clark County is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that is dedicated to driving economic development and growth in Clark County.

"Our primary focus is to promote sustainable and long-term improvements in the county by supporting businesses and housing projects," explained Noethlich. "We work closely with local communities, government agencies and private stakeholders to identify and address challenges faced by the county and to develop strategies that foster growth and prosperity for all."

Noethlich was born and raised in Blunt, South Dakota. She now resides in Raymond, South Dakota with her husband of four years, Jon, and their nine-month-old son, Blaine. After graduating high school, she attended Lake Area Tech in Watertown for two years for marketing and management and graduated with an Associates Degree.

Noethlich also does photography. Her business name is Catie K Photography. She was previously a paraprofessional at Doland School. In her spare time, Noethlich enjoys spending time with her family, especially her little boy.

"I have chosen to be a part of Choose Clark County because I see a lot of potential for growth and change in the community. I



Choose Clark County's new Executive Director is Catie Noethlich. Noethlich began her new duties on February 1.

Photo by Carolynn Olson

I am impressed with the many opportunities that the county offers, and I believe that I can contribute to its ongoing development and improvement," she added. "One of the things that I love about Clark County is the diversity of its population."

Choose Clark County was founded in 2020 and is located at 117 First Avenue West, Suite C in Clark.

Noethlich plans to visit all the county towns, attend meetings, meet with influential individuals in each community and determine what has been successful for them. This includes Willow Lake, Raymond, Carpenter, Clark, Crocker, Vienna and Garden City. "I really want to spread the word that

Choose Clark County doesn't just cover Clark it covers the surrounding areas and towns as well inside the county."

"My focus will be on identifying successful strategies and areas for improvement, particularly in the housing and job markets," said Noethlich. "There's so much to offer in this county, and so many new things are available out there in the world."

She works Tuesdays and Thursdays in the office and is ready to come to any meeting in Clark County. "I am excited to be a part of this thriving community and to contribute to its ongoing success!" exclaimed Noethlich.

## Nickels Aguayo's 'Keyboard Korректор' pending patent trademark approval

By Carolynn Olson

Tracy Nickels Aguayo of Clark is very excited about the approval of the Trademark but is anxiously awaiting news of her Patent being approved for her 'Keyboard Korректор®'.

On December 5, 2023, Tracy was granted a Trademark for the 'Keyboard Korректор®' from the United States Patent and Trademark Office. The process began with filing an application for a Trademark through the USPTO on August 23, 2022. The Trademark was approved for publication on September 19, 2023. The Trademark granted for 'Keyboard Korректор®' is to protect the letters, name, words used together, the color and the font of the Trademark.

The Patent Pending process began on March 20, 2022 as a Provisional Patent. The Patent Pending process can take up to 39 months. The Provisional Patent was converted to a Utility Patent application on May 22, 2023. "Hopefully, as we approach the beginning of the third year of waiting, we will hear something from the USPTO soon," said Aguayo.

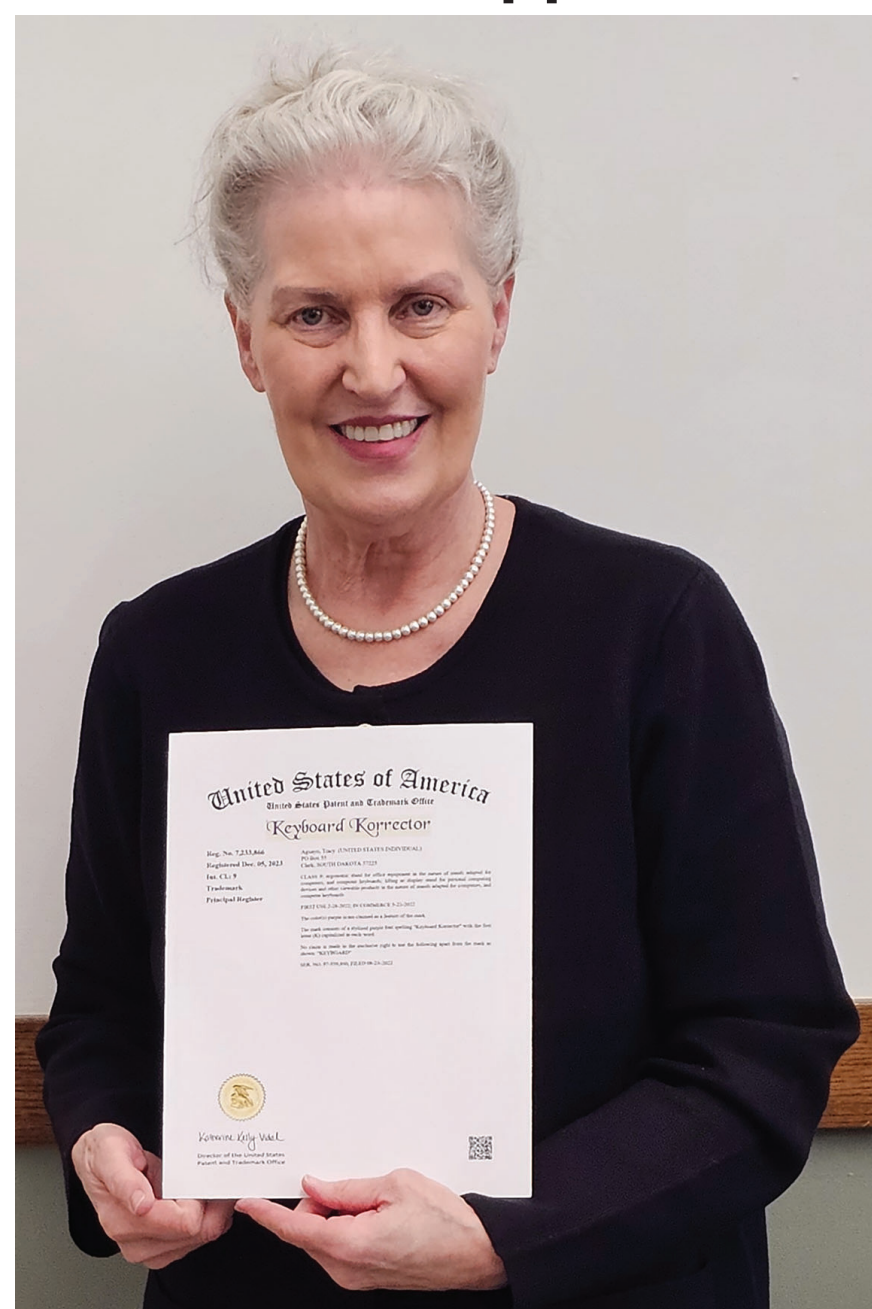
She must maintain the Trademark between the fifth and sixth year of use, the ninth and tenth year of use and every tenth year after that.

The Patent Pending 'Keyboard Korректор®' was invented by Aguayo to elevate the height of keyboards, laptops, tablets, cell phones or any device or unit to be ergonomically correct. "It is especially helpful under laptops, because laptops can get really hot and cause toasted skin or cause third-degree burns," explained Aguayo. "It also helps with air circulation under laptops."

"I struggled for years with elevating my keyboard to an ergonomically correct height," she said. "I used phone books, notepads, even pieces of foam, and nothing worked; the keyboard was never the right height. It would scratch my desk at work, so I had always thought there had to be a better way to have the keyboard resist sliding and meet the right height."

After about three years of brainstorming and a full year of trying many different materials such as plexiglass, clay molds and cardboard prototypes, Aguayo found that a plastic composite worked best for the 'Keyboard Korректор®'.

After having no luck finding a South Dakota company that could cut, heat and bend the product cor-



Tracy Nickels Aguayo is pictured above proudly showcasing her Trademark Certificate from the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Photo by Carolynn Olson

rectly, she found Focal Point Industries in Minnesota. They also manufacture products for Aguayo's sister, Luveta Nickels Wicks of the 'The Junk Jeans People'. Aguayo does have future plans to have the 'Keyboard Korректор®' manufactured in Brookings, South Dakota.

The 'Keyboard Korректор®' can be purchased on Amazon or on her website, sister-solutions.com. The cost for one is \$15.00 or two for \$25.00. "I encourage anyone who has an idea to just do it! What are you waiting for? The only thing holding you back is yourself!" exclaimed Aguayo.

### WEATHER

Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
Feb. 20 .....	38	22	0
Feb. 21 .....	44	26	0
Feb. 22 .....	55	31	0
Feb. 23 .....	44	28	0
Feb. 24 .....	42	22	0
Feb. 25 .....	52	22	0
Feb. 26 .....	51	31	0
2024 precipitation to date	0.63"		
2023 precipitation to date	1.65"		



## Clark Pops Concert was held Monday night

The Clark middle school and high school band and choir Pops concert was Monday night at the Clark High School gymnasium.

Pictured above on the left are trumpet players in the 8-12 band performing Despacito. From left to right are Eduardo Villages Reyes, Jayla Easthouse, Caitlyn Mudgett, Talen Ortberg, Bo Begeman and Wyatt Schlager.

Pictured above on the right are some of the mem-

bers of the 9-12 choir singing Show Yourself (Frozen 2). Back row, left to right: Blake Lenzen, Alex Reil, Logan Parker and Elijah Tarbox. Middle row, left to right: Diego Garcia, Jakob Steen, Logan Foster and Bo Begeman. Front row, left to right: Jarrett Maynard, Waylan Olson, Parker Schmidt and Randy Robles Torres.

Photos by Carolynn Olson

## Woehlhoff retires after 43 years of employment

By Carolynn Olson

Dacotah Bank in Clark is having a retirement celebration on Thursday, February 29 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for Customer Service Representative Kathy Woehlhoff.

Woehlhoff has worked at Dacotah Bank for the last 43 years. She has worked in banks for a good majority of her career.

Kathy's journey in banking began on February 1, 1981, when she started working part time at the bank in Bradley.

"I basically did whatever I was asked to do when I first started out," Woehlhoff shared. "I was okay with doing most everything but loans and insurance," she chuckled. "Those were two things I just never wanted to deal with."

Woehlhoff and her husband, Rick, live on a farm near Garden City. They have been married almost 53 years and have three children: Melissa, Erick and Krista, who have blessed them with five grandkids. The couple are also the owners of Glacial Lakes Livestock in Watertown. "My husband lives for livestock!" she exclaimed.

Kathy's favorite part about working at Dacotah Bank is her customers. "Customers are my priority. I've developed a lot of good relationships



Pictured above is Kathy Woehlhoff, Dacotah Bank - Clark Customer Service Representative. She will retire on Thursday, February 29 after 43 years of service in the banking industry.

Photo by Carolynn Olson

with my customers over the years," she shared.

"There hasn't been too many changes with the kind of work I do, except going from typewriters to computers," Woehlhoff explained. "I can remember when I used to do the board reports; there were nine members at the time, and I had to type the reports out with a typewriter us-

ing onion skin paper with carbon for each member."

When asked what she'll miss about work, she answered, "one thing I will miss is seeing my co-workers and customers everyday." Her retirement starts February 29. As for her plans after retirement, she hopes to do some traveling and also enjoy more time with her family.