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Mud Drag Races were new this year at Clark's Potato Day. One can tell from the inset crowd picture that the races were very well attended with around 600 people at the Clark County Fairgrounds Saturday afternoon.

The weather cooperated for all events Saturday and many positive comments were heard about the parade and all the activities.

Potato Day 2012 was spuddy and muddy

Potato Day has a way of rejuvenating the community and the 2012 event to honor the glorious tuber did exactly that! Many positive comments made all the volunteers, helpers and community in

general feel great. Under a slightly cloudy sky, the 21st annual Potato Day claimed beautiful August weather for another fun filled day for all ages. Event chairperson Robin Hartley

stated, "The entire community of Clark worked together to make this year's event one of the best ever. Our goal is to make this bigger and better every year, we will certainly have our work cut out for

us in 2013". In addition to all of the usual very popular events and contests, many new things were added, much to the delight of the large crowd attending. "People really

appreciated and enjoyed all of the new events that were added to Potato Day 2012, including the Mud Drags and the carnival in the park," said Chamber president Greg Furness.

For more pictures on this very successful and well attended annual Clark, South Dakota event, see pages eight and nine.

Senior Features of 2012

Joe Meester served his country proudly

▲ Farmed in Willow Lake for many years



Except for being born in Mission, Texas when his father, John Meester was serving in the Army in 1918 during WW I, Joe J. Meester spent his civilian life in Willow Lake. Joe also served in the Army from 1941-1945, and while on the Luzon Island in the Philippines, he had to spend ten days pinned down in a fox hole by the Japanese with very little food or water, only C and K rations. At the end of his service time, he was honorably discharged on December 24, 1945 and hitchhiked home from Aberdeen to Willow Lake and surprised everyone on Christmas Day.

"I'd say the best invention over the years was the tractor and the modern machinery that the farmers use nowadays," says Joe J. Meester, formerly of Willow Lake. "The worst invention is the credit card. Some go overboard and get in trouble that way."

Joe J. Meester was born on November 8, 1918 in Mission, Texas to John and Mae (Schmidt) Meester. Joe's father had served in WWI and wasn't discharged until Joe was very young, around two years old. The family then moved 'back home' to Willow Lake, they moved to a farm on Bailey Hill, southwest of Clark. Joe had two younger brothers, Herman and Harold.

Grandparents

Joe G. and Trintje (Nuttbrock) Meester lived on the very north end of Garfield Street which was then a dairy. Joe would drive around and deliver milk in quart and pint bottles to the residents of Willow Lake. Joe J. remembers riding with him and later working for him. "His horse knew right when to go and when to stop on the milk route without any direction from Grandpa. He was well trained," recalls Joe. "He also had a collie named 'Bruno' who would only have to be told 'Go get the cows' when it was milking time. Bruno would go out and separate the cows needed and bring them home in an orderly fashion. He'd never chase them, but gently walk them all home."

When Joe J. was in the third grade, his family also moved onto the dairy farm and lived in the second house on the farm. Joe J. recalls working the

Meester

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Wellnitz to be city policeman, beginning October 1, 2012

At the August meeting of the Clark City Council, Jeremy Wellnitz was hired as the Clark City Chief of Police, beginning Oct. 1, 2012. His salary will be \$37,500. This was a unanimous decision with council members Lon Reidburn, Terry Binger, Kerry Kline, Belinda Hanson and Anthony Woodland all in favor. Council person Louann Streff had left the meeting before this vote was taken and it followed a 40-minute executive session.

The city council then approved the termination of county law enforcement governing the municipality of Clark, also on a unanimous vote, with Streff absent.

The executive session lasted as long as the public portion of the meeting, with 15 items on the agenda.

New librarian Samantha Nelson was at the meeting and introduced to the council. She told the council her last name would be changing

this weekend as she is getting married. She will begin her new duties Sept. 27, 2012.

Her father, Steve Nelson, who moved from Florida to the southeast part of the city in 2011, visited with the council during the Public Input portion of the meeting. Nelson has a problem with the sensed water meters and would like to use the one he currently is using and would like to see the city adopt an opt out policy for sensed water meters.

Mayor Larry Dreher told Nelson that the city loses 30,000 to 40,000 gallons a year and the sensed meters help greatly in recording and saving water.

In other business:

▲ The city will hold the First Reading of the 2013 budget at the September meeting.

▲ The September meeting will be Monday, Sept. 10 and the October meeting will be Wednesday, Oct. 3.

Clark County has a new trooper

Denver Kvistad, is the new South Dakota Highway Patrol trooper serving the Clark County area. A native Minnesotan, Trooper Kvistad is 41 and most recently served the Highway Patrol with the Capital Protective Services (CPS), in Pierre. "I was with the CPS for 15 months handling everything from building security to executive office surveillance to dignitary security," said Kvistad, and he said as Clark came available, with Trooper Chris Linder's transfer, he welcomed this opening.

It helped that Kvistad's wife Tammy is a dental hygienist at Clark Family Dental. They have two children, Avery, who will be in seventh grade and Gunnar, who will be a third grader.

The couple purchased the former Sasse house on N. Smith Street and much of the family's spare time is spent renovating and remodeling the house.

Kvistad had a successful landscaping business in northern Minnesota, but around Christmas time 2008, he decided to make a career change.

"I was at a college career day, promoting my business, and my booth was next to the Minnesota Highway Patrol booth. I didn't think much about it until we were tearing down



Denver Kvistad is the new South Dakota Highway Patrol trooper assigned to Clark County. Kvistad began his duties last week and is looking forward to meeting everyone, "but on the street, not behind the wheel," he said and added how important an attitude of highway safety is for the well-being of all who use the roadways. This week he is on duty at the Sturgis motorcycle rally.

for the day and the patrolman said, "We're hiring, you should apply". After acquiring a degree from Central Lakes, Minnesota College,

with a degree in criminal justice, Kvistad faded out his business and

Kvistad

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Clark County Achievement Days kickoff this week, starting Thursday



The Clark County extension office and 4-H members and leaders have been hard at work as they get ready for the upcoming Achievement Days which will be held August 9 and 10. Kim McGraw says, "We are about ready, we are ready to start hauling stuff out there."

4-H has gone through a transition in Clark County lately but McGraw stated, "This will pretty much be the same as always. Really the only difference is everything is one day later".

Judges

Foods: Brenda Guthmiller, June James, Darlene Grant and DeLores Gilbertson.

Clothing: Diann Steinhauser and Gail Heismeyer.

Home Living: Pam Hofer, Lois Hyde and Kara Kienast.

Visual Arts: Michelle Mehlberg,



Pictured above is the 4-H float in the Potato Day's parade. The float is a part of all the build up surrounding 4-H to get ready for Achievement Days, which occurs August 9 and 10.

Pam Raeder, Beverly Wright and Deloris Fox.

Photography: Ann Scheel, Kay Solberg, Vickie Dreher and Chris Sichelmer.

Poster/Misc.: Jeannie Fuller.

Horticulture: Marilyn Malony.

Electricity/Welding/Wood: Bill Luke.

Crops: Mark Rosenburg.

Rabbits/Poultry: Mike Grann.

Swine/Sheep/Beef: Jeff Vander-Wal. Goats: Jared Knock.

Schedule

The only event today is Static

judging from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

All of the other events will start tomorrow August 9. Static Exhibits open up at 10:00 a.m. Rabbit/Poultry Show begins at 3:00 p.m. with the last event of the day being the Goat Show starting at 6:30 p.m.

Achievement Days will conclude on Friday, August 10. The day begins with Swine Show at 9:00 a.m. followed by the Sheep Show. Then the Beef Show will start at 12:30 p.m. The night will be ended with a chicken barbecue at 6:00 p.m. and a program at 7:30 p.m.