

## Ken's Food Fair is celebrating 30 years of business in Clark

Three decades ago, the late Ken Fiedler of Aberdeen purchased the local grocery store in Clark from Bob Schlueter and Noel Fischer. Fiedler added Clark to his small grocery store chain which today includes six stores. After his father Ken's passing, Kevin Fiedler took this place as owner of the stores and remains the owner today.

Current Clark store manager Scott Drexler has been employed at Ken's in Clark since 2012 and has spent the last four years in the management position. "I make an effort to know everyone by name, and I do that on purpose as it aligns with Ken's attitude to do the best they can on pricing and being as friendly and clean as possible," said Drexler.

"Since the pandemic, we have struggled getting in certain products, and it seems to shift from one area of product to the next. Our out of stock items are a lot worse than they used to be," added Drexler, regarding changes he has seen during his employment at Ken's.

Drexler mentioned that at Ken's Food Fair in Clark, if there is a product someone in the community

would like, and they are able to get it, he will place an order and make sure customer satisfaction is a priority.

"When I started, we were with Affiliated Foods. Now, we are with All World Grocers, which is the largest privately owned food wholesaler in the United States. Using this distributor allows Ken's to give better pricing than if they were independent," added Drexler in regards to customer satisfaction goals. All World Grocers serves all six Ken's Food Fair locations including Aberdeen, Britton, Clark, Eureka, Broton and Ipswich.

Former managers of Ken's Food Fair in Clark since the purchase in 1993 have been Randy Stevens, from the time of purchase until his retirement in August of 2016, Kim Nelson, who took over after Stevens retirement until her own in January of 2019 and Scott Drexler, taking over for Nelson and currently holding the position.

Other current Ken's Food Fair Clark employees are Kay Adolph, who has worked at this location since they opened, Pam Cole, Kathy Tollefson, Joan Berg, Eric Johnson,

LuAnn Jacobsen, Michael Bethke, Gunner Sanderson, Teresa Peckham, Randy Robles Torres, Jim Freese, Charlee Petersen, Lily Hartman and Wendy Zephier.

Ken's Clark location has an anniversary celebration planned January 18-20. There will be food demonstrations all three days. Wednesday, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., there will be pizza and ice cream bars. Thursday, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., there will be ham sandwiches, chips and water or pop, donated by Coke. There will be anniversary cake and Blue Ribbon ice cream on Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

In addition to the food, drinks and treats, Ken's Food Fair Clark will be doing a special 30th anniversary giveaway. Thirty different people will each win a thirty dollar Ken's gift card. The public can enter the drawing any day of the three day celebration, and the winners will be drawn for and announced on Saturday.

Ken's Food Fair in Clark will also have in-store specials during the three days of the anniversary celebration.



## Miles named Princess of Autumn at the Aberdeen Snow Queen Festival Saturday

South Dakota Snow Queen Festival Snow Queen Coronation took place in Aberdeen on Saturday at 7:00 p.m.

They crowned the 2023 South Dakota Snow Queen along with her four Princesses of the seasons. All the winning talent acts from the previous weekend performed along with various visiting royalty from other festivals in the area.

Pictured above from left to right are: Miss North Central - Jasmin Garcia - Princess of Spring, Miss Clark Area - Avery Miles - Princess of Autumn, Miss Webster - Addison Kuecker - 2023 Snow Queen, Miss Sully County - Lydia Hill - Princess of Winter, Miss Ipswich - Jailey Hutson - Princess of Summer and Miss Britton Area - Miss Congeniality - Regan Ringkob.

## Is South Dakota too lax in zebra mussel prevention?

Stu Whitney

South Dakota News Watch

The confirmed finding last summer of zebra mussels in Pactola Reservoir - 15 miles west of Rapid City in the Black Hills National Forest - has sparked greater scrutiny of South Dakota's efforts to protect bodies of water from aquatic invasive species, which spread exponentially and can negatively impact ecosystems, water intakes, fisheries and beaches.

governor signed a law in 2020 to broaden GFP enforcement authority regarding invasive species but has been largely quiet on the issue the past two legislative sessions.

Now, western neighboring states such as Wyoming and Montana are sounding the alarm on aquatic invasive species (AIS) and calling out South Dakota's relative lack of resources and staffing to carry out boat inspections, decontamination, water testing and other preven-

our border versus a couple hundred miles away has heightened the threat to our state. If South Dakota was able to do more at Pactola, we might not have to be doing as much here."

Alan Osterland, Wyoming chief of fisheries, was even more direct when addressing the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission this past September. "The [South Dakota] response, in our opinion, has been hands off," he said.

The South Dakota AIS program budget for 2021 was \$538,000, which includes federal grant money through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Reclamation, which oversees dams, power plants and canals in the western states. Wyoming has an annual AIS budget of \$1.3 million, paid for partly by fees for AIS decals, which cost \$10 for motorized watercraft registered in Wyoming and \$30 for motorized watercraft registered in other states.

Montana has invested about \$5 million a year to fund water sampling and boat check stations to protect the state's lakes and reservoirs from infestation. The state plans to adjust inspection station operations in 2022 "to address boat traffic from the Black Hills" now that zebra mussels have migrated west in South Dakota.

Minnesota, which first observed zebra mussels in 1989 in the Duluth/Superior harbor, spends about



Dan Loveland of the South Dakota Lakes and Streams Association holds up zebra mussels found on his property at Lake Pickrel in the summer of 2021. The snail-like mollusks reproduce rapidly and move from lake to lake by attaching to boats or microscopically in ballast tanks and live wells.

Zebra mussels, snail-like mollusks that reproduce rapidly and move from lake to lake by attaching to boats or microscopically in ballast tanks and live wells were first discovered in South Dakota at Lewis and Clark Reservoir in 2015 and have now infested 12 bodies of water, including Lake Sharpe and Lake Francis Case on the Missouri River.

That high speed of spread has led advocacy groups and some state legislators to call for more aggressive mitigation from the South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks Department and Gov. Kristi Noem. The

tative methods. Some worry that South Dakota has been too slow to contain the spread of adult zebra mussels and juveniles known as veligers, free-swimming larvae that can spread through water currents. Female zebra mussels can release as many as one million eggs per year, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

"We have a new threat right on our doorstep," Josh Leonard, the Wyoming AIS coordinator, told News Watch. "Before Pactola was infested, the closest zebra mussel population was the Missouri River area. Being 27 miles away from

### Zebra Mussels (continued on page 9)

### WEATHER

Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
January 10.....	21	8	0
January 11.....	27	10	0
January 12.....	21	13	0
January 13.....	18	1	0
January 14.....	21	0	0
January 15.....	36	20	0
January 16.....	35	28	T
2023 precipitation to date			0.22
2022 precipitation to date			0.15

## Law enforcement, county statistics for 2022 released

### ▲ Two fatalities, four injury accidents and many deer hit

Statistics from the Clark County Sheriff's office, Clark County Clerk of Courts and Clark County Register of Deeds have been tallied for the year 2022 in Clark County.

Approximately 98 accidents occurred in the county. Two fatality accidents occurred, four injury crashes and 70 involving car/deer. Every year, deer accidents account for at least two-thirds of the accidents, and that proved true again in 2022.

#### Clark Police Department

The City of Clark Police Department traveled 15,112 miles, had

64 total stops and 37 accidents along with 17 ambulance calls to respond to. Thirty-four traffic complaints, and 31 animal complaints were investigated. Citations written in 2022 tallied 36 compared to 38 in 2021, 21 warnings given in 2022 compared to 2021 and cases referred to the states attorney totaled 39 compared to 42 in 2021. Fourteen welfare checks were completed. Total calls for service was at 597, compared to 559 in 2021.

#### Clerk of Courts

The following number of cases were opened in Clark County for

2022: magistrate cases, 7; criminal cases, 36; civil cases, 35; and small claims, 78. There were three adoptions in the county and six divorces. Six search warrants and six protection orders were issued, along with one involuntary commitment. Background searches tallied 25 in 2022. There were 352 total POA tickets issued in the county last year.

#### Register of Deeds

Fifteen marriage licenses were completed in 2022 compared to 18 in 2021. Burial permits totaled 71 in 2022 compared to 41 burial records in 2021.



Several cast members of the Clark High School one act play, *How to Kill a Mockingbird* by Bradley Walton were pictured recently as they are busy preparing for their upcoming competition and performances.

Pictured above in back row, left to right: Leah Nelson, Breanna Dale, Olivia Fuller and Lily Ingraham. Front row, left to right: Aleisha Naze, Nevaeh Rusher, Madison Pickrel and Marlee Bowers. Not pictured: Kaden Janisch and Gaige Tuttle.

## CHS one act play members rehearsing for competition

Practices are moving into rehearsals as the cast and crew for this year's Clark High School one act play prepares to perform *How to Kill a Mockingbird* by Bradley Walton.

According to director, Jill Rathe the play focuses on five less-than-stellar students who meet to work on group English project. The assigned reading is Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Unfortunately, not one of the five actually read the book. Worst of all, no one brought a copy of the book nor do they even know the title of it. So ensues a hi-

larious guesses and assumptions which culminate into a crazy conspiracy theory about the book and the true threat of the mockingbirds. "Rehearsals are off to a great start despite busy schedules on the part of the actors. The greatest challenge getting a play performance ready in Clark High School is time," said director Jill Rathe.

"Our students are involved in many simultaneous activities, so grab an hour to rehearse after school when we can, an hour or two on weekends, and in January, we will rehearse before school starts

in the morning. These kids really want to exercise their acting chops in order fit one act into their already over-scheduled lives," added Rathe.

Performance dates for the one act play are Sunday, January 22 at 4:00 p.m. for the public and Monday, January 23 at 2:15 p.m. for students. This year's regional competition will be held on January 25 at Great Plains Lutheran in Watertown, and the state competition will be held February 2-4 in Sioux Falls at O'Gorman High School.

## Authorities searching for missing Clark County nine year-old girl

Dakota News Now

A mother is searching for her 9-year-old daughter, and believes she may have been kidnapped.

According to the mother, Brooklyn Ford went missing around 11:15 a.m. Friday after being picked up by a relative from school in Bradley. She is 4' 9", 125 lbs. with strawberry blonde hair and brown eyes.

Clearinghouse, Brooklyn was last seen wearing a red sweatshirt with tie dye, a blue and black coat and carrying a black backpack. Brooklyn may be traveling in a red 1998 Ford F-150 pickup with S.D. license plates 18H-837.

Anyone with information on Brooklyn's whereabouts should contact the Clark County Sheriff's Office at 605-532-3822.