

Clark County Courier

The voice of Clark County since 1880

Happy Thanksgiving!

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The hometown newspaper of Heather Bowers, Merrillville, Ind.

Christmas in Clark

2023

Clark, South Dakota

Chamber has many "Hometown Promotions"

Christmas season 2023 will be upon us, as Thanksgiving is this Thursday, November 23. This holiday season will be a great opportunity to support your local retailers and therefore benefit the entire economic community.

Many Christmas promotions have already begun or are set to begin. Collect your Chamber holiday punch cards from Clark Chamber businesses. This promotion begins Saturday, November 25, and ends December 22, the punch cards need to be turned in on or before the end date, December 22, to Ken's in Clark.

Small Business Saturday

This Saturday, November 25, the Clark Chamber of Commerce will continue to join with other small towns across America in celebrating small-town businesses with its 'Small Business Saturday' promotion.

Small Business Saturday is positioned between Black Friday and Cyber Monday, and Small Business Saturday allows us to use our holiday shopping dollars to recognize the importance of small businesses and the contributions they make to our communities and our county's economy.

For Small Business Saturday on November 25, the Clark Chamber of Commerce will be sponsoring a Vendor Fair at the Clark American Legion from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. There will also be a free will donation lunch held at the Ulyot Building. The Cocoa Crawl is from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The cost per cup is \$15.00 and can be purchased at Ace Hardware in Clark. When a person completes all the stops on the Cocoa Crawl, turn in to Farmer's Daughter Boutique by 3:30 p.m. Completed Cocoa Crawl passports will be entered into a drawing for three \$100 Clark Buck certificates.

Christmas in Clark

Another great day in Clark is being planned by the Clark Chamber for Christmas in Clark on December 2. From 3:00 to 5:00 p.m., there will be children's games, crafts and karaoke in the Clark American Legion Hall. A cheesy turkey meal will be offered in the Ulyot Building from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.

A 'Lighted Parade' will take place that evening, December 2 at 6:00 p.m. Floats will start lining up by the Clark Elementary School at 5:30 p.m. This parade is being sponsored by the Clark Area Chamber of Commerce. The parade will start at the Clark Elementary School and end by Avantara Clark. This year's theme for the lighted parade is 'Christmas Songs', but it is not necessary to follow the theme.

Courthouse Christmas Trees

The Clark County Courthouse Christmas Tree display is in the works. All trees must be up by December 1 and taken down by January 5, 2024. Local businesses, churches, civic groups and many more are invited to participate by decorating a tree for the courthouse that will be on display from Thanksgiving until after Christmas. So far, there will be at least 15 trees on display. Everyone is encouraged to stop by the Clark County Courthouse during their business hours to see and enjoy all of the beautiful trees.



The Clark FCCLA chapter brought home several awards from their national convention. Pictured in the top left photo is the Clark Quiz Bowl team consisting of, left to right: Raigan Flatten, Madison Pickrel, Jakob Steen, Valley Roebke and Logan Parker. Individual photos, from left to right: Ella Sass, Kamryn Nesheim, Nevaeh Rusher and Hannah Heiman. Photos by Tammie Paulson

Clark FCCLA members attend national meeting

By Tammie Paulson

Eleven FCCLA members from Clark School attended the Fall National Leadership meeting in Birmingham, Ala. November 10-11, 2023. This annual event brought together more than 1,300 Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) student members, advisors and guests.

The conference provided FCCLA members opportunities to add to their ultimate journey. Attendees heard from keynote speakers Mon-

ti Washington, Joshua Evans and Brent Camalich, engaged in various youth workshops, competed in Skill Demonstration Events and FCCLA/LifeSmarts Knowledge Bowl, watched and learned from the "One Small Visit" movie and networked with fellow FCCLA members from across the country.

Clark Quiz Bowl members competed online in October for the chance to attend the Fall meeting. Thirty-five of 80 teams that competed online were invited to attend the

Fall meeting for the chance to place in the top 16 and advance to Seattle, Wash. this summer to compete.

The Clark Senior Team played three rounds, winning two and advanced to the top 16. Team members include Madison Pickrel, Valley Roebke, Jakob Steen, Logan Parker and Raigan Flatten.

Members also competed in Skills Demonstration. Competing in the Interviewing Skills event were Sara Thonvold and Nevaeh Rusher. Rusher placed second overall. Competing

in the Impromptu Speaking event was Hannah Heiman, who also placed second.

Three members competed in the Toys That Teach event. Kamryn Nesheim finished in first place, Ella Sass took home second place, and Kendra Wren came away with a sixth place finish.

Clark School was well represented at the FCCLA national level.

It's the time for holiday joy and giving to those in need

By Tara Knudson

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 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 27 boxes for Thanksgiving and 35 for Christmas. This year, there will be 35 Thanksgiving boxes, as well as 35 boxes for Christmas.

"We have several elderly individuals and couples that have signed up for those boxes, she stated. "This year, families have also requested both holiday boxes. Last year, most families only needed one holiday or the other."

Knudson reported that ICAP has received numerous food donations for those needed boxes. "Churches and school classes want to help cover a specific number of boxes," she said.

Clark High School's National Honor Society and FCCLA are among those organizations that run a successful food drive. The classroom that brings in the highest number of "points" for food donations will be rewarded with an ice cream party, sponsored by the student leadership organizations. The preschool classes won with a total of 1,115 points.

The food boxes are available to all Clark County residents and are not dependent on financial need. If

someone is seeking a Christmas food box, they are encouraged to notify Knudson as a box can still be secured. She is thankful for those that have volunteered to help her pack.

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. 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 Angel Trees for this year are located in the Willow Lake and Clark Dacotah Bank lobbies. The cards on the tree list the age and boy/girl, along with ideas for needed or desired Christmas gifts.

"We do have several sibling groups on the trees this year. The angels are coded to show if that child is part of a sibling group," Knudson explained. All gifts and tags need to be returned to the banks by December 13 and are then distributed to 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 them in securing energy assistance if their income qualifies through the Department of Economic Assistance with the South Dakota Department of Social Services.

If any persons want to help with any programs, please reach out to Ashley Knudson at Clark ICAP, also known as Used 2B New in Clark. Food and clothing are always needed and accepted. A monetary gift also goes a long way. But, if that's not in your budget, the gift of time is also appreciated.

"All donations stay local and go right back to the residents that live in Clark County," she emphasized. "The community of Clark is amazing when it comes to supporting our programs. It is a real treasure working with the residents of Clark County. We couldn't do what we do without the community."

Today is the day to give!

By Carolyn Olson

The National Day of Giving takes place on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. This year, it will be on November 28. National Day of Giving was created to unleash the power of generosity by giving to those in need or to charities. Non-profits and charitable organizations usually participate in end-of-year fundraisers.

The Clark Area Community Foundation, Clark Lions Club, Clark Rotary Club and local churches are participating this year in the fifth annual Clark Area Day of Giving. The Clark Area Community Foundation is challenging all local businesses. For every donation made, they will match up to \$5,000.00. All proceeds will stay in Clark County to help a community need or organization.

In conjunction with the Clark Area Day of Giving, the Clark Lions Club hosted a pancake feed on Sunday, November 19 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and were able to raise over \$1,000.

The Clark Rotary Club and Clark Area Community Foundation are hosting a burger feed today! There will also be a bake sale, hosted by local churches, taking place at the Plymouth Congregational Church from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Some of the bake sale items include: pies, bars, cakes, buns and other assorted goodies. "Let us do your holiday bak-

ing!" exclaimed Gayle Wookey and Dala Albright.

Students at Clark Elementary School participated in the Penny War to help raise funds for Clark Area Day of Giving as well. The Penny War started Monday, November 6 and lasted until Friday, November 17. The second grade class were deemed the winners this year and will get to enjoy a pizza party. The total earnings from the elementary were over \$1,700.

National Day of Giving is Tuesday, November 28 and donations can still be made to The Clark Area Community Foundation for Clark Day of Giving until then.

"We've had a great response so far," Wookey and Albright stated. "Come out Wednesday and enjoy a burger and bake sale!"

WEATHER			
Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer			
	HI	LO	PR
Nov. 14.....	60	29	0
Nov. 15.....	60	30	0
Nov. 16.....	57	44	0
Nov. 17.....	54	21	0
Nov. 18.....	48	23	0
Nov. 19.....	61	33	0
Nov. 20.....	57	34	0
2023 precipitation to date	19.01"		
2022 precipitation to date	18.89"		

Amy Nelson to march in Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade

Following its inaugural appearance in the 2022 Rose Parade,® the Saluting America's Band Directors project is again bringing together band directors from across the country to New York City on November 23, 2023.

The Saluting America's Band Directors parade entry will again convey its theme, "America's band directors: We teach music. We teach life." to recognize the extraordinary dedication and accomplishments of band directors and music educators everywhere. Throughout their careers, the music educators in this band have collectively mentored

Amy Nelson, 6-12 band and vocal director at Clark School District has been selected to join a marching band of 400 band directors from

across the country in the historic Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade® on November 23, 2023.

The Saluting America's Band Directors project is again bringing together band directors from across the country to New York City on November 23, 2023. The project is a partnership between the National Association of Music Educators (NAE) and the National Band and Orchestra Directors Association (NBODA). The project is a partnership between the National Association of Music Educators (NAE) and the National Band and Orchestra Directors Association (NBODA). The project is a partnership between the National Association of Music Educators (NAE) and the National Band and Orchestra Directors Association (NBODA).

and taught hundreds of thousands of students. These professionals not only teach and direct music, they teach about life itself.

"I am so grateful for the opportunity to be in such an amazing group. This is the most experienced group ever assembled into a marching band. With over 400 band directors marching, it's hard to fathom how many years of experience we carry," according to Nelson.

The band will be directed by na-

tionally known music educator and innovative band director Jon Waters.

The sponsoring organization behind the Saluting America's Band Directors project is the Michael D. Sewell Memorial Foundation, based in Pickerington, Ohio. The foundation was created to recognize and carry on the work of the late Mike Sewell, who dedicated his life to the school and community music programs in Pickerington and the Central Ohio area for almost 40 years.

The Bake Sale and Burger Feed are TODAY at Plymouth Congregational Church from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Proceeds will go to Clark Day of Giving