

## Clark, Willow Lake school districts awarded grant for CTE programs

By Carolyn Olson

The Department of Education has awarded four grants totaling nearly \$3.8 million dollars to school districts to purchase equipment for new or existing career and technical education (CTE) programs. The grants were made possible by Senate Bill 59 from the 2023 legislative session which allocated \$5 million for CTE programs throughout the state.

Each grant supports collaboration among school districts to bring innovative CTE programs to students.

The Clark and Willow Lake School Districts prepared their application for the CTE Collaborative Equipment Grant in April, and it was approved May 14.

The \$278,212 grant will enable the exchange of CTE programs between the Clark and Willow Lake School Districts enhancing access to health science, manufacturing and transportation for students in both districts.

Clark and Willow Lake are the only two school districts in Clark County. This grant will allow the students from both schools to explore careers and coursework in areas they would otherwise not have the opportunity to. This collaboration of school districts is an extension of an athletic co-op that has existed for over 15 years.

The goal of this grant is to provide up to 20 students (each semester for at least the next five years) from each district the ability to participate in the Health Science, Transportation, Distribution and Logistics and Manufacturing clusters. These students will become the next generation of EMTs, CNAs, automotive technicians and many other trade services.

Through this collaborative CTE grant, the Willow Lake School District will be purchasing an Anatomage table, which is a 3-D virtual dissection table. The grant will also provide other health science classroom materials to provide the Willow Lake and Clark students a Health Science learning experience with cutting edge technologies. "Thank you to both schools CTE teams and area businesses who provided partnerships and/or letters of support," said Willow Lake Superintendent Chris Lee. "Thanks to the S.D. Department of Education for providing this grant!"

The Willow Lake School District did receive another CTE grant in the amount of \$210,000. This grant will provide equipment for the new FACS kitchen and ag shop. It includes the purchase of commercial

grade equipment in both classrooms. FACS will receive commercial kitchen equipment that include a double door refrigerator, mixers, blenders, dishwasher, worktables, etc. The ag classroom will receive a CNC plasma table and a CDL truck driving simulator.

The Clark School District (CSD) currently has an agreement in place to purchase an adjacent commercial property that will be used to expand its CTE course offerings. With the purchase of the facility, the Clark School District will add automotive and expanded small engine classes to their course offerings along with machine tool technology under the CTE clusters of Transportation, Distribution and Logistics cluster and Manufacturing. The commercial property mentioned is the former Tony's Collision Center.

"The Clark School District will be purchasing various equipment for a new Automotive class that we are offering and our Machine Tools course that we offer as well," Clark Superintendent Travis Ahrens stated. New welders, including wirefeed, TIG and stick welders, a welding simulator, CNC Plasma Table, CNC Lathe machine, plasma cutters and various automotive diagnostic equipment are items on the list.



## Explosions of color lit up the night sky

Independence Day wouldn't be the Fourth of July without fireworks. Unfortunately for people in the area, inclement weather postponed firework displays until July 5 when the conditions were more favorable.

donors and business donors, put on a fireworks display at dark. For the past four years, the fireworks have been set off at the city dumpgrounds. As always, it was a beautiful display of pyrotechnics.

Photo by Karli Paulson

Each year the City of Clark, with many anonymous

## Clark Rotary baseball tournament to be held at Dickinson Park field

Starting Thursday, July 7 and running through Saturday, July 11, the Clark Rotary Baseball Tournament for Legion teams will be happening in Clark. This will be the tenth year for the tournament.

Twelve teams will be vying for the team championship. In Pool One are Clark-Willow Lake, Gregory and LaMoore, N.D. Pool Two teams are Groton, Lennox and LAW Rattlers. In Pool Three are Faulkton, Lisbon, N.D. and Salem-Montrose-Canova. Pool Four teams are Millbank, Grafton, N.D. and Hankinson-Lidgerwood, N.D.

Clark-Willow Lake Senators include: Conner Mudgett, Jack Helkenn, Tyson Huber, Max Bratland, Will Ho-vde, Collin Gaikowski, Michael Severson, Jakob Steen, Bryce Klancke, Josh Kannegieter, Parker Schmidt, Ernesto Garcia, Waylan Olson, Ky Vandersnick, Damian Severson, Diego Garcia and Cooper Pommer. Chris Bokinskie is the coach, assisted by Hudson Fuller.

Opening ceremonies will be held before the first pitch every morning of the tournament. Games start at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday and 9:00 a.m. on Friday and Saturday. Eight umpires will be running the tourney with six games daily, approximately every two hours.

The 12U girls softball team will host a 50/50 raffle on Thursday, July 11. The Clark Rotary Club will host a 50/50 raffle on Friday and Saturday;

proceeds will go towards new playground equipment at Dickinson Park. The Clark High School junior class will host a burger feed on Friday, July 12 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Concessions will be open all three days, and the tournament is free to the public.

Within the last year, the Clark Rotary Club has installed a new lawn chair loft for seating and a new well to irrigate the field. They also purchased a field groomer, which has been a good investment for the field.

Clark Rotary Club president Dala Albright said that much work, both at the field and behind the scenes has taken place to make this tournament possible. There are over 70 sponsors for the event. If anyone is interested in being a sponsor, please contact Dala Albright.

WEATHER			
Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer			
	HI	LO	PR
July 2.....	71	60	0.10
July 3.....	76	60	0
July 4.....	80	62	0.08
July 5.....	66	57	0.89
July 6.....	74	57	0
July 7.....	77	57	0.11
July 8.....	74	56	0
2024 precipitation to date	15.67"		
2023 precipitation to date	10.89"		

## Corner Diner awarded \$10,000 Backing Small Businesses grant

By Catie Noethlich

Commercial Street in Clark is undergoing another upgrade. The Corner Diner received a \$10,000 award through the Backing Small Businesses Grant from American Express in partnership with Main Street America this June.

Karen Hansen, the owner of the diner for the past decade, and Lisa Orris, manager of the diner for the last three years, have been seeking ways to enhance the diner's facilities and continue serving the community of Clark. They reached out to Choose Clark County for ideas and grant opportunities to aid them in serving and employing members of the community.

With over 30 lunches served daily, the diner has been in need of funds to improve the kitchen facilities, address small equipment needs and take care

of essential repairs. This financial support will significantly improve the diner's operations and set the stage for future improvements to the eatery.

The Corner Diner is a place in the Clark community to meet friends, treat the family or have a working lunch. Keeping all aspects of the business affordable, fully staffed and profitable is a challenging task that Lisa faces daily. Being selected as a recipient from thousands of applications nationwide is a huge achievement for the diner and highlights the value Main Street America sees in Clark's Corner Diner.

Other Corner Diner employees include Kylee Christian, Vicki Orris, Bobbie Palmer and Hannah Heiman.

The Corner Diner is one of 500 recipients of the grant funds and is now also eligible for an additional \$30,000 that is available to 25 of the recipients.



## Garden City KDLO tower continues to see progress

In December 2022, the 1,705-foot KDLO tower in Garden City collapsed during a winter storm. The collapse was caused by ice accumulation. The second 800-foot tower followed the first only a few hours later.

In September 2023, construction of a new tower began. Precision Communications, an Oklahoma-based company, was hired to install the new KDLO-TV tower in Garden City.

According to an email sent out by KELOLAND in June, the tentative schedule for the tower is as follows: Finish stacking, mid to late July; get KDLO on air, late July to early August; and get FM on air, September.

Photos Courtesy of Lynda Stern



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