



A Pickleball Clinic for beginners was held at the newly finished pickleball court near Clark High School on Monday at 6:00 p.m. Those in attendance are pictured above.

Photo by Cassi Kottke

Pickleball court is up and going in Clark

By Catie Noethlich

Clark is adding a new sport to their repertoire: Pickleball! Efforts to enhance the tennis court near Clark High School have been ongoing since last summer, thanks to the contributions of several individuals and organizations, including: Lee Schlagel Memorial, Dacotah Bank, Clark Area Community Foundation, ITC, Clark Family Dental, Wayne Heilman in memory of his wife Eilene Heilman, Todd and Tina Warkenthien, Terry and Deb Schlagel, Jackie and Wayne Schlagel, West Central Initiative - Riverview Farms, Crocker Wind Farms, Kyle and Trudi Gaikowski, Clark Lions

Club, Clark Rotary Club, and Sanford.

Despite the challenges posed by heavy rain, work on the courts, which began in mid-June, will be completed in time for the first tournament, scheduled for Sunday, August 4, following Clark's Potato Days.

In the initial stages of the project, it was found that the structure was in good condition, but the surface required refurbishment to ensure continued use.

Trent DesLauriers of Dakota Applicators diligently worked on the project to create a recreational area with four pickleball courts, one

tennis court, and one basketball court with two hoops. The intention is for the area to remain available for kids to play during other sporting events, with hopes that pickup games of soccer, baseball, and basketball will continue alongside the new options.

Classes will continue to be offered to teach people how to play, and the courts will be outfitted with items to promote solo play and practice for players of all experience levels.

The continued use and improvements to this area is an exciting step for the community of Clark and the start of so many big achievements to come for the county.

Potato Day is Saturday, August 3

Potato Days 2024 is a little over a week away! Make sure you put down August 2, 3, and 4 on your calendar.

Sponsored by the Clark Chamber of Commerce, as well as individual or group sponsors, events and activities are planned for the entire family regardless of your age or interests.

Cassi Kottke and Robin Hartley are spearheading Potato Days. Kottke, Hartley and the Potato Days committee have been working hard to make this weekend special for one and all.

So many activities are planned for Saturday, as well as some on Friday and Sunday. It is impossible to list them all in story form. A schedule will be inserted into the *Clark County Courier* the week of the event (next week).

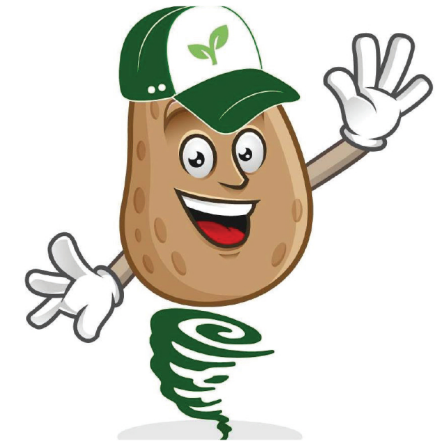
This is the 32nd Potato Days. The event started as a Clark High School homecoming event, with the game on Saturday afternoon, starting in 1992.

The Swimming Pool Park will be the prime destination for Potato Days this year. And, as is the norm, activities will be held all over the community of Clark.

New events for 2024 include: a Pickleball Doubles Tournament on Sunday, starting at 2:00 p.m., and the Clark Chamber of Commerce's first annual car show. Registration is from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., show starts at 12:00 p.m. and awards will be given at 3:00 p.m. The car show will be on Main Street in Clark.

Kottke and Hartley want to remind everyone about all of the other great activities over the weekend

including, but not limited to: the kids bike parade, the tough farmer competition, kids magic show, road race, foam party, petting zoo,



the bean bag tourney, live music in the afternoon, the parade and the street dance.

Friday activities kick off the weekend. The Dacotah Bank Appreciation Lunch is from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. The Kiddie Parade (bikes) starts at 5:30 p.m., meeting at the Clark United Methodist Church at 5:00 p.m. Wine on Nine is at the Clark Golf Club at 5:00 p.m. Registration starts at 4:00 p.m. Inflatables will be available for kids from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at the Swimming Pool Park on Friday as well. The Dodgeball Tournament will take place at the Clark High School at 7:00 p.m. To end the night, DJ Dorene Foster will be playing the tunes at the Clark Golf Club.

Saturday is the big day! The junior class will be serving pancake and sausage breakfast at the Clark American Legion Hall from 7:00-10:00 a.m. as a prom fundraiser.

Getting a jump start to the day is the Road Race. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. and the race will begin at 8:00 a.m. at Gas Plus. From there, the events keep coming!

The Swimming Pool Park will be the place to be on Saturday! Mashed Potato Wrestling is slated for noon on Saturday, at the Swimming Pool Park. Arts in the Park will also be at the Swimming Pool Park, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Another big one to watch for is the parade! The Potato Day Parade is a big way to put an exclamation point on Saturday's activities. The parade begins at 5:00 p.m. with line up starting at 4:30 p.m. at Saint Michael Catholic Church. To end the night, there will be a street dance, with the Daddy Powers Band, between Sportsman's Bar and The Lookout Bar & Grill.

Don't forget Sunday! Community Church starts at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday morning at the Swimming Pool Park. Then in the afternoon, there will be a Pickleball tournament at the new court at Clark High School starting at 2:00 p.m.

WEATHER

Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
July 16.....	82	61	0.02
July 17.....	78	57	0.10
July 18.....	74	56	0
July 19.....	80	59	0
July 20.....	80	62	0
July 21.....	83	63	0
July 22.....	82	62	0
2024 precipitation to date	15.98"		
2023 precipitation to date	11.1"		

American Legion Region 6B tournament happening in Clark

The 2024 South Dakota American Legion Region 6B Baseball Tournament is being hosted by the Clark-Willow Lake Senators this year at Dickinson Field in Clark. The tournament runs this week Tuesday, July 23 through Friday, July 26. Teams playing in the tournament include Clark-Willow Lake Senators Post 60, Claremont Post 262, Faulkton-Highmore Post 102, Groton Post 39, Moberidge Post 4 and W.I.N. Post 137.

The Clark-Willow Lake Senators are coached by Chris

Bokinskie and assisted by Hudson Fuller.

The first game on Tuesday started at 11:00 a.m., with the host team Clark-Willow Lake playing against Claremont Post 262. Game two followed after that between Groton Post 39 and Moberidge Post 4. Game three started at 4:00 p.m. with the winner of game one versus Faulkton-Highmore Post 102. W.I.N. Post 137 went up against the winner of game two, following game three to end the first night of gameplay.

Annual 4-H rodeo this weekend at Clark County Fairgrounds

The Clark County 4-H along with the Clark County Horsemen's Club will be hosting the 23rd annual Clark County 4-H Rodeo on Saturday, July 27 starting at 10:00 a.m. and Sunday, July 28 starting at 9:00 a.m.

Over 260 contestants have registered to compete in events over the weekend. Both the small and large arenas at the fairgrounds will be utilized for events.

Youth involved in the Clark County 4-H Rodeo will compete for an opportunity to qualify for the South Dakota 4-H Finals Rodeo, which is held annually at the Stanley County 4-H Fairgrounds in Ft. Pierre, S.D.

Not only does the Clark County Rodeo allow local youth to participate, but numerous youth from across the state also travel to Clark County to

compete with other members in their age division and to continue to hone in on their skill-sets for the state event and to obtain a qualifying score. Age divisions are junior (eight-14 years old) and senior (14-18 years old), and youth can compete in a multitude of different events.

Saturday and Sunday are considered "separate" rodeos, and contestants will have two opportunities to qualify for the state finals.

Over 1,500 run throughs will take place over the course of the weekend.

The lunch stand will be open for attendees and spectators to utilize for meals and snacks throughout the weekend, and there will be no gate fees to come watch the rodeo. The concessions will be hosted by Clark County 4-H families and leaders.

Clark County 4-H Achievement Days is Aug 5-7 at the fairgrounds

The 96-year-old 4-H program in Clark County will host their annual Achievement Days on Monday, August 5 and will run through Wednesday, August 7. You can still expect the famous annual BBQ supper to take place during the three-day event at the Clark County Fairgrounds.

The BBQ supper is an essential fundraiser for the numerous 4-H programming events in Clark County. If you'd like to purchase tickets for the BBQ supper, contact a local 4-H member, or call the Clark County 4-H Office at 605-532-3681. So far 500 tickets have been sold.

Activities for Achievement Days commence on August 5 with the Amazing 4-H Race at 5:00 p.m. and the swine show

at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, August 6 begins with the rabbit show at 8:30 a.m., followed by the goat and sheep show, and will complete the day with the BBQ supper at 6:30 p.m. and evening activities to follow at 7:30 p.m.

The final day, Wednesday, August 7 kicks off with the dairy, beef builder, and beef show at 9:00 a.m. followed by the Round Robin.

Youth in Clark County have been busy preparing for Achievement Days by giving their static exhibits their finishing touches and making sure their livestock are ready to compete. All the accomplishments from Clark county members sure are a wonderful sight to see each and every year.

Law enforcement respond to stabbing in Clark on Sunday

On Sunday, July 21, at approximately 2:33 p.m., Watertown Regional 911 center received a 911 call of a stabbing that occurred in the 400 block of First Avenue West in Clark.

Law enforcement arrived on the scene and began tending to the victim along with gathering information on the suspect that had fled the scene. Law enforcement was able to gain a description of the vehicle that the suspect fled in. Law enforcement in Codington County was able to make a traffic stop on the vehicle in question and were able to take the suspect, Edgard Uriel Jarquin Cruz,

into custody.

The suspect was charged with aggravated assault and is being held in the Codington County Detention Center. The victim was transported to an area hospital where they were treated and released.

The investigation is ongoing. The Clark Police Department is being assisted by the Clark County Sheriff's Office, Codington County Sheriff's Office, South Dakota Highway Patrol, South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Watertown Police Department, South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation and Clark County Ambulance.



Anna Hamre is Valley Music Hall of Fame 2024 inductee

Anna Hamre is one of the five esteemed 2024 inductees into the Valley Music Hall of Fame in Fresno, Calif. Her parents were Melvin and Ruth Hamre of Clark. She is Professor Emerita and former Director of Choral Activities at Fresno State, serves as Artistic Director of Fresno Community Chorus, Inc. and has received numerous awards in choral conducting and music education.

Dr. Hamre took over the Fresno Community Chorus in 2002. Dedicated to its motto "Giving Voice to the Central Valley," it sponsors five ensembles: Fresno Master Chorale, Coro Piccolo, Coro Solare, Quintus, and Altissima.

These ensembles comprise a diverse group of volunteer singers from various professions. Under Dr. Hamre's leadership, the Fresno Master Chorale tours regularly in Europe and Asia and has performed multiple times at Carnegie Hall.

Hamre is the author of *The High School/University Sight-Singer* and *The Weekly Sight-Singer: An Abbre-*

viated and Accelerated Method both used widely in music education.

Dr. Hamre has conducted her groups in numerous countries and has guest engagements as a conductor, adjudicator, clinician and presenter, including two Carnegie Hall appearances. She holds degrees from Augustana College, University of Northern Colorado and University of Colorado in Boulder.

Other 2024 inductees include John Clifton, John Chookasian, Marisa Orduno and Evo Bluestein.

The Valley Music Hall of Fame is a non-profit organization dedicated to recognizing and celebrating individuals who have significantly contributed to our local music scene.

This year's induction ceremony will take place on Wednesday, September 25, 2024 at Roger Rocka's Dinner Theater in Fresno, Calif. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., dinner at 6:00 p.m., and the show begins at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$85 per person for dinner and the show.