

Area schools begin opening next week

Can it be back to school time? Henry opens next Monday, August 16, Clark opens next Wednesday, August 18 and Willow Lake opens the Tuesday after Labor Day, September 7. Sport practices have begun at the three respective schools. Volleyball games will start in two weeks and high school football games start on Friday, August 20, with three games slated before Labor Day. Clark-Willow Lake will play 11-man the next two years and Florence-Henry will remain in 9-man classification.

Clark

Classes resume on Wednesday, August 18 with new superintendent Travis Ahrens and new middle

school/high school principal Jennifer Heggelund. Felicia Reed is the new K-12 counselor.

Willow Lake

Willow Lake, as has been the case in recent years, will start the 2021-22 school year after Labor Day. Look in next week's *Clark County Courier* for their School Directory page. The administration remains the same with Chris Lee as superintendent and Linda Merkwan as principal.

Henry

Classes will begin Monday, August 16. Teacher Inservice and Open House continues today, Aug. 11, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Todd Obele is the Henry School superintendent.



On Wednesday, during 4-H Achievement Days, the Junior Leaders organized a Sheep Senior Showmanship contest. Those pictured include, left to right, Steve Arnesen, Kenny Tarbox, Jodi Fuller and Bill Fuller getting interviewed. On the stage and helping are Ella Sass, Lydia Reidburn, Darci Ford (hidden) and Denae Stern.

This event was held instead of the parade of exhibits.

Champions and ribbon winners announced at Clark County 4-H Achievement Days

The weather had a little bit of everything for 2021 Clark County 4-H Achievement Days. Cool mornings, hot afternoons and even a brief downpour during the Wednesday evening Chicken Barbecue. Achievement Days were held at the Clark County Fairgrounds, August 2-5 and the results, as usual, were very good.

"I was very pleased with 4-H Achievement Days," said Spink/Clark County 4-H Adviser Kimberly McGraw. "Plus, I'm quite pleased with the percentage of State Fair qualifiers in Clark County."

A total of 612 exhibits were shown by Clark County 4-Hers. Monday evening the display exhibit judging was held. There were 407 total exhibits entered and on display at the Home Ec building this year. Purple ribbons this year numbered 311. Entries within the various project areas varied: Foods and Food Preservation had 46 exhibits with 38 purple ribbons awarded; Clothing has 20 exhibits with 19 purples; Home Environment had 46 exhibits with 43 purple ribbons. A total of 105 exhibits were entered for Visual Arts with 80 purple ribbons. Horticulture exhibits totaled 10 exhibits with seven purples. There were 88 photography entries with 44 purple ribbons awarded.

This year there were eight Cloverbud members who brought exhibits. Cloverbud projects are not counted in the ribbon counts, instead the Cloverbud receives a Cloverbud ribbon for each of their projects after visiting with the judge. Cloverbuds are 4-H members ages 5-7.

Best in Show selected by the display exhibit judges this year went to:

Olivia Fuller - Home Environment - Quilt; Selma Nelson - Vi-

sual Arts - painting; Lane Tarbox - Visual Arts - Denver Broncos Picture; Ignatius Fuller - Photography - Icicle's picture; Sara Thonvold - Photography - picture of person; Madison Brenden - Eggs, Crops, - Brown Eggs; Lily Hemmingson - Foods and Nutrition - Chocolate Bundt Cake; Samantha Brenden - Foods and Nutrition - Krumkaka; Ada Rider - Clothing - Constructed Wrap Dress; Collin Fuller - Welding - Welding Practice Stand; Samantha Fuller - Horticulture - Hot Peppers; Mitchell Schmidt - Educational Display - Welding Business; Selma Nelson - Child Development - Harry Potter Birthday Party Plan.

Tuesday started off with the Dog Show in the morning where nine 4-Hers participated with their dogs. The dog show consists of three events: Obedience, Showmanship and Agility. The Champion Obedience winner was Sara Thonvold and her dog named Harleigh, Reserve Champion Obedience went to Lane Tarbox and Koda. Champion Showman went to Aanya Fuller and Chloe, with Reserve Showman going to Lane Tarbox and Koda. Champion Agility was Sara Thon-

4-H Achievement Days (continued on page 3)

WEATHER

Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
Aug. 3.....	82	58	0
Aug. 4.....	83	61	0
Aug. 5.....	79	63	.01
Aug. 6.....	89	61	0
Aug. 7.....	84	61	1.23
Aug. 8.....	85	65	.03
Aug. 9.....	81	64	0
2021 precipitation to date	13.51		
2020 precipitation to date	13.55		



What a great Potato Day turnout!

▲ Potato wrestling, plenty of fun and laughs for all

The twenty-ninth Clark Potato Day had great weather, great activities and events and a great crowd. Without counting people every year it is pretty hard to prove that there were more people at Potato Days 2021, but it sure seemed like that was the case.

Also, good things were heard about Potato Days' new location - Swimming Pool Park. It seemed a natural fit.

People came early and stayed for the 5:00 p.m. parade. The younger generation stayed for the Street Dance, sponsored by the Clark Volunteer Firemen.

A showcase event for Potato Days, the Mashed Potato Wrestling, had full bleachers in attendance and many crowd pleasing moments.

In recent years, Potato Day events such as the Clark Car Show, the Antique Tractor Parade and Antique Tractor Pull and Strong Man competition have really increased in notoriety, bringing in many folks from outside the community. Nice comments were heard about the activities and the crowd.

The VFW 16U Class B baseball tournament was going on at Dakota Style Field in Dickinson Park.

Clark School Board readies for 2021-22 start

With Clark School beginning one week from today, the August meeting of the Clark Board of Education was all about getting the school year started.

Six new teachers were introduced and then the board introduced themselves.

Superintendent Travis Ahrens then went over the 'Return-to-School' plan: "We realized, now more than ever, the importance of effective communication between the school district and our stakeholders. Our Administrative team, along with help from our district COVID-19 Taskforce have prepared a 'Return-to-School' (RTS) plan. The RTS plan established guidelines and procedures that district personnel and students will

follow to help mitigate risk to the COVID-19 virus. Our district's COVID-19 Taskforce is made up of Clark School District school board members, administrators, counselor, grade level teachers and local health care professionals.

"The protocols of mitigation are subject to change as needed to maintain the safety of staff and students given the changing circumstances across the state and local community.

"The last two school years have been marked with numerous challenges as a result of the COVID-19 global pandemic. We feel that in-person learning in the classroom between students and teachers is the most effective and beneficial mode of student learning. Our

schools play an instrumental role in the academic, social and emotional health and success of our students. As we enter the upcoming school year, we will look to return to more normal operations, while still maintaining the ability to return to key risk mitigation processes while we continually monitor current school and community health conditions. We do not take the following decisions lightly and we base them on our shared experiences and feedback that we have taken from our school board, administration, staff, students and stakeholders."

The year is starting with normal thoughts and masks will not be mandated at this time nor will contact tracing, which will be left up to the board of health.

Ahrens continued, "We take COVID-19 seriously while at the same time are balancing a quality education. We have experience and plans in place to go back if we have to."

Ahrens then discussed with the board implementing a service agreement with contractors that a down payment will be given each time along with a reasonable timeline. Such will be the case with Werdel Construction and the cement project on the west side of the high school. The first pour will begin this week with August 20 as the finish date for all of the projects: west side, FFA Greenhouse and front entrance.

School Board (continued on page 4)



South Dakota 16U Class B VFW tourney held in Clark

The South Dakota 16U Class B VFW Baseball Tournament was held Aug. 6-8 at Dakota Style Field, in Dickinson Park. Tyndall won the State Championship.

Clark Area finished fourth. Clark Area players shown during the open-

ing ceremonies include, left to right, coach Chris Bokinskie, Mitchell Larson, Logan Lutz, Tyson Huber, Lucas Kannegieter, Collin Gaiowski, Jack Bratland, Jack Helkenn, Max Bratland, Lincoln Reidburn and Trey Huber.

Photo by Crystal Kopecky