

## Seven new faces working with students in the Clark School system



**Adrienne Bjerke**



**Audrye Foster**



**Megan Palmer**



**DeAnn Paradis**



**Heather Patenode**



**Emma Vig**



**Kayla Weber**

Today (Wednesday), the 2024-2025 Clark School year kicks off, as the school doors are now open. Superintendent Travis Ahrens, MS/HS Principal Jennifer Heggelund and Elementary Principal Jon Redmond greeted students this morning as one and all begin a new school term.

Seven new faces will be greeting the students in the Clark school system. New to the Clark School for the 2024-2025 term will be Adrienne Bjerke, Audrye Foster, Megan Palmer, DeAnn Paradis, Heather Patenode, Emma Vig and Kayla Weber.

### Adrienne Bjerke

Adrienne Bjerke will be a paraprofessional at Fordham Colony. She is a Clark native, graduating from high school in 2014. She attended Lake Area Technical College for business.

Bjerke was previously employed at Dacotah Bank in Clark.

Adrienne is single and lives in the Doland area.

### Audrye Foster

Audrye Foster will be a paraprofessional at Clark Elementary School. Foster is from Clark, where she graduated in 2023. She is the daughter of Ryan and Ida Foster of Clark and sister of Jasmine and Brandi Foster.

Audrye is attending Lake Area

Technical College in Watertown.

### Megan Palmer

Megan Palmer will be a middle school teacher in Clark. She is originally from Carpenter and graduated from Iroquois High School in 2009.

She attended college at South Dakota State University and Dakota State University, receiving a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and a Master's degree in Science of Educational Technology.

For the last 10 years, Palmer has been teaching fourth grade in Brookings.

Megan and her husband Colt live southwest of Clark with their children

Sebastian (fourth grade), Priscilla (first grade) and Penelope, who is three years old.

### DeAnn Paradis

DeAnn Paradis will be a paraprofessional at Clark Elementary School. She is from Alamogordo, N.M., where she graduated in 1985 and attended New Mexico State University.

DeAnn lives in Clark with her husband Joseph.

### Heather Patenode

Heather Patenode will be a cook at Clark Middle School/High School. She is a Clark native and graduated from Clark High School.

Patenode and her husband Shane live in Raymond with children Jacob and Waylon. Jacob is a freshman, and Waylon is in first grade.

### Emma Vig

Emma Vig will be an elementary paraprofessional at Clark. She is from Clark and graduated high school in 2011.

Vig attended Northern State University for Business Administration. Her previous employment includes Amazing Grace Daycare in Clark and running her own in-home daycare in Aberdeen and also in Clark.

Emma and her husband Cole live north of Clark. They have two children, including Sophia, who is a first grader and Madison, who will start preschool this fall.

### Kayla Weber

Kayla Weber is the new administrative assistant at Clark Middle/High School. She is originally from Campbell, Minn., graduating in 2000.

Weber attended Walden University for Early Childhood and Lake Area Technical College, graduating with an Associate of Applied Science degree in Early Childhood.

Kayla is married to Dustin Weber, and they live in Clark. Their baby is due in September.



These six seniors will be lead the charge on the Clark-Willow Lake football team this season. The 2024 Cyclone seniors include, from left to right: Elliot Bratland, Josh Kannegieter, Zane Werdel, Chris Venjohn, Parker Schmidt and Griffin Musser.

Photo Courtesy of Dave Severson

## Cyclone football 2024 season preview

Clark-Willow Lake returns a core nucleus of toughness that will translate into pay dirt in the red zone for the 2024 campaign. After finishing with a 3-5 record in 2023 with key wins against Webster Area, Moberidge-Pollock and Dakota Hills, the Cyclones are back on the grid iron, and they are hungry for much more.

The Cyclones just conquered fall camp and according to Head Coach David Severson, "The boys showed up with a great attitude and have worked hard at getting better every day."

Coach Severson has set the tone for the season early, and the bar of expectation has been elevated. "Our team goals and expectations for this group of young men is quite high. We have a goal of playoff caliber football."

Clark-Willow Lake returns four seniors this fall in Elliot Bratland, Josh Kannegieter, Chris Venjohn and Griffin Musser, and they have added two more, including Zane Werdel and Parker Schmidt to create a super six.

"Zane and Parker joined the team this year for their senior year," adds Coach Severson. "They are great additions to the team. The other four seniors have had big roles in this team since their freshman year. I have great expectations for these seniors this year."

The Cyclones need not look far for leadership and field experience. "Three of our four captains this year were also captains last year. Quite a few of these juniors and seniors have been in leadership positions before. I feel this year we have the leadership to accomplish the weekly goals for the team to be successful on Friday nights. It starts in practice, and I feel we have the guys in place that are willing to meet that responsibility every day," states

Coach Severson.

Key contributors can also readily be found in the trio of Musser, Kannegieter and Bratland.

"Griffin Musser has been our leading offensive player for the last two seasons and will be expected to lead our offensive battle this year," adds Coach Severson. "Elliot Bratland has also been our leading tackler the last two seasons and will be an anchor in defense. Josh Kannegieter is as sound of a player on both sides of the ball as they come. These seniors will be daunted with the task of leading this team every Friday night," Severson explains.

Newcomers will add some spice and athleticism to an already gritty Cyclone core. "We have some up and coming talent coming that will see the field quite a bit," says Coach Severson.

Severson adds, "Talen Huber comes in as a sophomore, and we will look to make an impact with him where he is needed. Diego Garcia and Ernesto Garcia are juniors and will both be starting this year. Damian Severson and Cooper Pommer will look to make a big impact in our DB/WR category this season. Jakob Steen has made the move to Guard and will be asked to fill some big roles for us up front. He is an intense player, and that is perfect for the guard position. Mato Desnoyer and Seth Poppen will also be on the line utilizing their strength. Masyn Knock and Michael Severson have seen quite a bit of playing time last year and will be asked to anchor the remainder of the line."

In 2024, the Cyclones have reflected upon key personnel and will make adaptations utilizing the talent and skill they already possess.

According to Coach Severson, "We have adapted to the game, our play style will be a lot different than it has been in the past offensively,

but we feel it is going to utilize the guys we have."

Key improvements from last year include finishing drives by converting in the red zone.

"We have taken some great steps in trying to improve our Red-Zone offense and utilizing the talent that we have," adds Coach Severson. "We have focused a lot of our off-season and fall camp on scoring the football. It was our downfall last year crossing the goal line, so the coaching staff is putting great pressure on the boys to rise up and finish the drive with points."

The Clark-Willow Lake Cyclones will open their 2024 campaign hosting Aberdeen Roncalli on August 23 at Clark High School.

"We start the season with Aberdeen Roncalli. They will be one, if not the toughest opponents on our schedule. We are excited about this, because we lost a heart-breaker to them by five points last season, and our guys are looking to get our turn this year."

### Cyclones 2024 Football Schedule

Aug. 23.....vs. Aberdeen Roncalli in Clark @ 7:00 p.m.
Aug. 30.....Bye Week
Sept. 6.....Sisseton @ 7:00 p.m.
Sept. 13.....vs. Sioux Valley in Clark @ 7:00 p.m.
Sept. 20.....Parker @ 7:00 p.m.
Sept. 27.....Groton Area in Clark (HC) @ 7:00 p.m.
Oct. 4.....vs. Deuel in Clark (WL-HC) @ 7:00 p.m.
Oct. 11.....Moberidge-Pollock in Moberidge @ 6:00 p.m.
Oct. 19.....Webster Area @ 2:00 p.m.
Oct. 24.....First Rd Playoffs TBA
Oct. 31.....FB Qtr Finals TBA
Nov. 8.....FB Semis TBA
Nov. 14-16.....FB Finals TBA

\*Schedule subject to change

## Clark-Willow Lake 2024 Volleyball Season Preview

By Heather Jordan

After a tumultuous 2023-24 campaign with 11 wins and 15 losses, the Clark-Willow Lake Cyclone volleyball team is back, and they are ready to compete.

Head Coach Betty McGraw is back at the helm of the program after leading the Cyclones in 2020-21, where she and her team competed in the SoDak 16 qualifier falling to Hill City. McGraw may have stepped away from the head coaching role for a brief hiatus, but she and her volunteer assistant coach, Beth Severson have served as integral components in the Cyclone Volleyball Club Junior Olympic program during the off-season.

According to Coach McGraw, "I am very excited to return to coaching the Cyclones. Coaching is very much a passion for me and to get to do it in my hometown is such a blessing. Our program has so much to offer and is filled with a lot of amazing talent. We have a very bright future ahead of us for many years to come. I am thankful and grateful to get to lead this program."

Assisting Coach McGraw will be Lukas Anderson, who enters year



These eight players will be leading the Clark-Willow Lake volleyball season this year. The 2024 Cyclone seniors include, from left to right in the back row are Samantha Brenden, Shay Michalski, Hannah Heiman and Tehya Vig. In the front row, left to right: Kaylyn Hofer, Valley Roebke, Avery Lee and Kate Larson.

Photo by Heather Jordan

### WEATHER

Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
August 13.....	75	58	0
August 14.....	75	61	0.10
August 15.....	75	62	0.74
August 16.....	78	63	0.01
August 17.....	74	60	0
August 18.....	77	60	0
August 19.....	81	61	0
2024 precipitation to date	17.75"		
2023 precipitation to date	13.59"		

two on the Cyclones sideline and Beth Severson. Coach Anderson entered the Clark-Willow Lake volleyball program as a new assistant coach in 2023-24, and he brings experience and perspective.

"Beth is our volunteer coach and is a very active coach with me. She brings some great coaching experience to the table. She is a great asset to the CWL volleyball program and she will be a big part of helping

us find success."

The Cyclones have been hard at work so far, and Coach McGraw has a large group of student athletes participating in 2024 with 33 girls.

"We have a had busy first few days of practice," adds Coach McGraw. We have a lot of girls out this year and a lot of really great talent

CWL Volleyball (continued on page 4)

## Raymond Redwing Days set for Saturday

By Catie Noethlich

Nestled north of 212 between Clark and Doland, a little red-and-white water tower stands over a small cluster of homes. The name on the tower in black is Raymond.

In the last census, Raymond's population was shrinking to a mere 50 residents, primarily alums from the Raymond School that closed in the 1970s. Raymond residents feared their home would fade into history and fuzzy memories like the school, restaurants, gazette, bank and lumber yard.

Then, houses began to sell. Young couples started to call Raymond their home, and now the streets and driveways are full of bikes and strollers. The park got a facelift with new equipment, and The Raymond Station opened. The town is buzzing under its little red-roofed water tower. Kids laughing and playing now fill the once-quiet streets.

The Redwing Days event was initiated by both new and existing residents to celebrate their community. What started as a small gathering with music, food and neighbors has rapidly turned into something larger.

The event, named after the school mascot, The Redwing, will kick off with a color run/walk exploring the town. While the 5k is taking place, a tractor show and vendor fair will be set up near the U.S. Post Office. Additionally, there will be inflatables and a barrel train for kids to enjoy.

Recognizing that there are almost 20 kids in town, Raymond Redwing Days aims to offer activities for the whole family. At 10:00 a.m., the Farmer's Market will open, along with the Kids' Treasure Trove dig in the park, the Potato Launch and Ripley Acres Petting Zoo. Throughout the day, the Raymond Fire Department will be

serving breakfast, lunch and supper along with drinks for the visitors. After lunch, families can join in a game of bingo at the Raymond American Legion building, followed by Dilly Bars with a Deputy. Later on, everyone can participate in the Barnyard Competitions, including the Goat Grab and a Pig Scramble for both kids and adults.

But, that's just the first half of the day's schedule. Afternoon activities include a bean bag tournament at 3:00 p.m., a Cajun Boil at Raymond Station at 4:00 p.m., Chicken Sh!t Bingo at 5:00 p.m., silent auction at 6:00 p.m., the If It Rolls Parade at 7:00 p.m. and the Lizzy Hofer Band starting at 8:00 p.m.

All proceeds from the event will go towards community improvements in Raymond and to fund next year's Raymond Redwing Days event.