

After 36 years Clark County Sheriff Rob McGraw will be putting away the badge

'To Serve the People.' Every day for 36 years when Rob McGraw put on his Clark County Sheriff uniform and badge, that was his ideology - to serve the people.

"Treat people like you want to be treated," said McGraw about his career in law enforcement, and he used the words honesty, integrity, and respect, "while at the same time taking care of the little guy."

As he retires, Sheriff McGraw is the longest serving active county sheriff in South Dakota. Respected by peers and constituents alike, McGraw takes much pride in Clark County and the law enforcement track record Clark County has recorded the past three and a half decades.

Clark County has always been called home by McGraw, and he is a 1974 Clark High School graduate. He was a member of the South Dakota Army National Guard from 1975-2005 and became the Clark

County Sheriff on Jan. 1, 1987, after defeating Jim Brekke in the election the previous fall.

Changes

Since 1987, many changes have occurred in all lines of work, and law enforcement has really seen advances, as everything now is computerized and digital, and information is instantaneous.

"When I became sheriff we had rotary dial phones and fax machines were still about five years away and then a year or two later we started with emails. Radios in the 1980s had about a 60-mile radius, and now its world-wide. Now security cameras and four-wheel drive vehicles have really changed how we do things. The world is a lot smaller," said the long-time sheriff.

With technology ever-changing, the human element is still the most important factor in law enforcement and McGraw stated, "I'd like to think we have a pretty good re-



On the left, Clark County Sheriff Rob McGraw is shown shortly after he was first elected in 1986.



The picture on the right is basically his retirement photo, as he is retiring, after a 36-year career as Clark County Sheriff, at the end of 2022.

lationship." He was referring to city and county relationships as well as the sheriff's department relationships throughout the county.

Not an easy job

"I've been shot at a couple of times," said McGraw, but as all good lawmen do, he didn't give details, but added, "I've never shot

back, come close a couple of times."

After being elected Clark County Sheriff nine times, almost every square mile of the major highways in the county has some sort of mem-

ory for McGraw.

Fatality accidents have taken

Rob McGraw

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The Alleluia Bell Choir performed at the Clark United Methodist Church Christmas Concert on Sunday. They performed "In the Bleak Midwinter," "In the Manger," "O Holy Night," "Carol of the Bells" and "The Glory of Christmas" for the concert.

Members pictured in the front row, from left to right, are Victoria Salmonson, Wanda Bethke, Robin Brown, Janet Hallberg, Gayle Wookey and Annette Helkenn. Helen Olson, Pat Seefeldt and Betsy Fjelland can be seen peeking through in the back row.

Clark UMC Alleluia Bell Choir has been performing for two decades

The Clark United Methodist Alleluia Bell Choir was started by a group of women and friends from the Clark United Methodist Church. They got to talking and drummed up the idea to start a bell choir. The group received donations for their first octave and have since had successful fundraisers to add a second octave and chimes to their collection.

The group performs every year from September to April, trying for at least one performance each month. Most of their performances are held at the Clark United Methodist Church. However, the Alleluia Bell Choir performed at the Goss

Opera House in Watertown recently.

Robin Brown, one of the founding members said they choose their songs by listening to music, whether that be on the radio, YouTube or searching Google for inspiration. If a song catches their ear, and they think it sounds pretty, they try it out.

There are 12 current members of the Alleluia Bell Choir, with eight of them being original members. Members of Alleluia Bell Choir are

Alleluia Bell Choir

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WEATHER			
Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer			
	HI	LO	PR
December 13	32	26	0.30
December 14	32	31	0.26
December 15	35	25	0.23
December 16	25	15	0.25
December 17	17	0	0.02
December 18	6	-12	0
December 19	9	-3	0
2022 precipitation to date	21.43		
2021 precipitation to date	24.53		



Living in a winter wonderland

A winter wonderland is what the four-day winter storm brought to the Clark County area this past week. Ice and snow, followed by wind, kept many indoors and made travel hazardous.

This week, it is to turn bitterly cold, just in time

for Christmas.

Above, snow covered evergreens help give the Beauvais House at the Clark County Historical Society grounds a bucolic image.

Dear Santa...from Clark first graders



The students from Mrs. Wieseler's first grade class shared their Christmas lists for Santa with the Clark County Courier. They were working on some Christmas coloring as they answered questions about what they

Continuing Christmas season in the Clark County Courier is a feature of first graders' letters to Santa from Clark Elementary School.

Here are their answers on what they would like from Santa from Mrs. Wieseler's class, currently being taught by Mrs. Sundvold.

Dear Santa,
Hunter, I would like Pokémon cards, Pokémon toys and Pokémon shirts.



would like from Santa this year. Pictured on the left, from left to right, are first graders Everleigh, Kaden, Reagan and Abigail. On the right, from left to right, are first grade students Ellie, Wyatt, Gentry and Erving.

Abigail, Please bring me a new babydoll.
Dylan, For Christmas, I would like more toy cars and some green

tanks.
Piper, I would like you to bring me a Hatchimal.
Wyatt, For Christmas this year,

I would like an Xbox and a big remote control car.

Dear Santa

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