

Christmas in Clark

2024

Clark, South Dakota

Chamber has many "Hometown Promotions"

Christmas season 2024 will be upon us, as Thanksgiving is Thursday, November 28. This holiday season will be a great opportunity to support your local retailers and therefore benefit the entire economic community.

Many Christmas promotions have already begun or are set to begin. Collect your Chamber holiday punch cards from Clark Chamber businesses.

Small Business Saturday

Saturday, November 30, the Clark Chamber of Commerce will continue to join with other small towns across America in celebrating small-town businesses with its 'Small Business Saturday' promotion.

Small Business Saturday is positioned between Black Friday and Cyber Monday, and Small Business Saturday allows us to use our holiday shopping dollars to recognize the importance of small businesses and the contributions they make to our communities and our county's economy.

For Small Business Saturday on Saturday, November 30, the Clark Chamber of Commerce will be sponsoring a vendor fair at the Clark American Legion from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The Cocoa Crawl is from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. as well. The cost per cup is \$15.00 and can be purchased at Dakota Butcher in Clark. When a person completes all the stops on the Cocoa Crawl, turn back in to Dakota Butcher by 3:30 p.m. Completed Cocoa Crawl passports will be entered into a drawing where three winners will be chosen.

Christmas in Clark

Another great day in Clark is being planned by the Clark Chamber for Christmas in Clark on Saturday, December 7. Starting at 2:00 p.m. and going until 4:00 p.m. will be children's games and fun at the American Legion. From 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. a community meal and a friendly 'Best Soup in Town?' cookoff. If you'd like to enter your soup in the 'Best soup in town' contest contact Tammy Rusher at 605-670-8651. Soup will need to be delivered by 3:30 p.m. and will need a roaster full, the public will decide who the winner is. There will also be Bingo from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.

The Anything but a Christmas Tree entries will be on display during Christmas in Clark on December 7. Entries must be dropped off at Dakota Bank on Friday, December 6, judging will be done that evening. Everyone and anyone can participate, old young, businesses, organizations, families, everyone! Categories for prizes to be awarded are business, organization, family, adult - 18 or older, high school - ninth grade to 12th grade, middle school - sixth to eighth grade, and elementary - kindergarten to fifth grade. Contact Tammy Rusher at 605-670-8651 or Monica Forest 605-233-0261.

The Lighted Parade line up will start at 6:00 p.m. with the parade starting at 6:30 p.m. The theme this year is "Oh Christmas Tree." Winning categories are Best Theme, Most Lit and Most Unique. Following the parade, Duenwald Transportation will offer rides around town to look at the Christmas lights from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Courthouse Christmas Trees

The Clark County Courthouse Festival of Trees is in the works. All trees may be set up anytime Friday, November 22 and Monday, December 1. The courthouse is open to the public from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. All trees are to be taken down by Monday, January 6, 2025. Local businesses, churches, civic groups, and many more are invited to participate by decorating a tree for the courthouse that will be on display from Thanksgiving until after Christmas. Everyone is encouraged to stop by the Clark County Courthouse during their business hours 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. to see and enjoy all of the beautiful trees.

Florence School Board votes 3-2 to dissolve co-op with Henry

By Carolynn Olson

The Florence School Board voted 3-2 to dissolve the sports co-op with Henry School at their meeting on Monday, November 11. This decision will go into effect for the 2025-2026 athletic/school year.

Before said meeting, the Henry School Board submitted a proposal to modify the terms of the co-op between the schools. Some of the modified terms included: one athletic director, one game manager, splitting finances 50/50, and scheduling games and practices based on student percentages from each school.

Kathy Roe, president of Florence School Board, is currently working on getting a statement written up about their decision. It will provide some insights into the primary reasons that led to the dissolution of the sports co-op.

Since the Florence School Board meeting, the Henry School Board has held two special meetings over the matter. The first meeting was held on Thursday, November 7 and the second was held on Monday, November 18. Henry School is hosting a co-op sports community meeting on Monday, December 2, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. in the school gym.

Clark County Courier Christmas and New Year's editions to be published on Tuesday instead of Wednesday

With the Christmas and New Year's holidays falling on Wednesdays this year, the last edition of 2024 and the first edition of 2025 will be sent out on Tuesday instead. Which means of course, the newspaper has to be ready for print by Monday afternoon, a day earlier than usual, so it can be delivered to all county subscribers on Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24 and New Year's Eve, Tuesday, December 31. These editions will also be available for counter sales on Tuesday.

For these editions, our holiday deadline will be before 5:00 p.m. the Friday prior to printing. The deadline for the December 24 edition will be Friday, December 20. Friday, December 27 will be the deadline for the December 31 edition.



The Clark-Willow Lake Cyclones Cross Country Awards Banquet was held in Clark on Friday, November 15. Pictured above are the award recipients. In the back row, from left to right, are: Aksel Gjerde, Alex Reil, Ayden Peterson, Waylan Olson and Will Hovde. In the front row kneeling, from left to right, are: Emma Bochek, Jennifer Bevers, Kamryn Nesheim, Sena Gjerde and Faith Roehrich.

Photo by Melissa Nesheim

CWL cross country awards banquet held Friday

By Heather Jordan

The Clark-Willow Lake cross country team commemorated their 2024 season at their annual awards banquet on Friday, November 15.

Votes were cast by all team members and the Cyclone coaching staff to recognize the best of the best throughout the 2024 season.

Cyclone Cross Country award winners:

Boys' team:
Best in Race - Will Hovde
Most Improved - Ayden Peterson

Most Valuable Runner - Will Hovde

Co-Spirit of Cyclone - Waylan Olson/Aksel Gjerde

Rookie of the Year - Will Hovde

Girls' team:
Best in Race - Kamryn Nesheim

Most Improved Runner - Emma Bochek

Most Valuable Runner - Kamryn Nesheim

Co-Spirit of Cyclone - Faith Roehrich/Sena Gjerde

Co-Rookie of the Year - Faith Roehrich/Jenny Bevers

The coaching staff also recognized Katelynn Merkel as a student manager and team captain. In addition to team awards, two Cyclones earned Academic All-State awards including Katelynn Merkel and Waylan Olson. To be eligible, the honor athletes must be a senior, maintain a 3.5 or higher grade point average, must have competed in cross country for at least three years and must be nominated by their head coach.



Area schools hold food and clothing donation drives

By Carolynn Olson

The holiday season can be one of the hardest times of year for families. Recognizing this, four area schools are doing their part to help by hosting food and clothing donation drives.

Clark High School's National Honor Society (NHS) and FCCLA chapters hosted a Thanksgiving food drive from November 7 - 14 at the Clark Elementary School. Boxes were placed in each classroom to collect goods. There were two categories of food to be donated, including most needed food items (each worth 20 points), and other food items (each worth five points). The class that earned the most points was Mrs. Hallberg's kindergarten class with 1,150 points. They will be rewarded with an ice cream party. The final results:

- Preschool A - 385
- Preschool B - 275
- Kindergarten Hagstrom - 655
- First Grade Wieseler - 920
- First Grade Jensen - 390
- Second Grade Coumos - 555
- Second Grade Nesheim - 820
- Third Grade Karber - 1,045
- Third Grade Spieker - 335
- Fourth Grade Florey - 775
- Fourth Grade Barthel - 740

Fifth Grade Ahrens - 507

Fifth Grade Woodring - 205

The Willow Lake School NHS chapter wanted to do a community service project to benefit the elementary students. "We know with the colder weather coming, some students might forget warm gear at home or not have anything that fits," said advisor Meghan Nelson. Some of the mittens will be handed out to students who need them and the extra will be used during recess time (if students forget them or have a wet pair). "We received some great donations and are thankful for our community's support!"

Henry School is currently hosting a helping hands donation drive until December 6. Items that can be donated include: adult and children's clothing, toys, books, and hygiene products. All items being donated should be new, or slightly used.

The day to shop is Monday, December 9 from 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. It will also be open during the school Christmas programs. The store will be open to the Henry community for families to shop and prepare for the holiday season. All items will be available for free will



With the holiday season approaching fast, area schools have decided to hold donation drives for food and clothes.

In the left photo, Clark High School students, from left to right, are Hannah Heiman, Katelynn Merkel and Lincoln Reidburn are pictured with the items collected from the Clark Elementary School NHS and FCCLA food drive. Above, are hats and mittens that have been donated to Willow Lake School's NHS hat and mitten drive.

Submitted photos

Area schools hold food and clothing donation drives

donation, which will be put into a fund for Henry student needs.

There is also an angel tree at Henry School that will directly impact students within the school. If interested in sponsoring a child, please reach out to Tori Borns at tori.borns@k12.sd.us.

An All School Food Drive started on Monday at Florence School. Students will collect food drive items this week and turn them into the office on Friday, November 22. Elementary, middle school, and high school students will all be separate and whoever brings the most items will receive a movie/popcorn party for an afternoon.

WEATHER

Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
November 12	43	31	0
November 13	52	34	0.10
November 14	48	29	0
November 15	59	29	0
November 16	55	41	0
November 17	55	39	0
November 18	59	29	0
2024 precipitation to date	19.49"		
2023 precipitation to date	18.32"		



Deer season opens this weekend

By Carolynn Olson

The 2024 East River Rifle Deer Season opens this Saturday, November 23 and runs through Sunday, December 3, 2024. Only antlerless tags are valid from Saturday, December 14 until Sunday, December 22. a

Approximately 600 'any deer' tags have been issued for Clark County as well as 200 double doe tags.

With crop harvest completed this year good spots to find deer will be in tree groves and sloughs. Rut will soon reach its peak, which means bucks can be spotted often as well.

With rain, possible snowfall, and cooler temps predicted for this week there should be more deer movement than what we've seen in previous years.

According to Clark County Conservation Officer Zach Thomsen, some big issues that occur each year during hunting season are: people

shooting from motor vehicles, road hunting and hunting on land without permission. These are the most common calls Officer Thomsen receives each year.

If anyone is caught violating, the consequences are loss of hunting privileges for a year and fines from \$300 to \$600 per violation. "If anyone sees any violations call me directly at 605-881-2260, or the TIPS hotline 1888-overbag," he said.

The deer population is lower this year in Clark County. "We've been getting a lot of concerns about the lower deer count in some areas," said Thomsen. "Also keep in mind to respect land owners, always wear your orange gear, please report any violators, and as always have a fun and safe hunting season."

Hours for hunting are half hour before sunrise until half hour after sunset.



The Clark County Courier office will be closed on Thurs., Nov. 28 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday