

Jump! Into Spring event at Clark High School on Saturday, April 6

By Carolyn Olson

Clark Area Chamber of Commerce is hosting their second annual Jump! Into Spring event this year at Clark High School on Saturday, April 6 from 3:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Three inflatables will be set-up in the Fieldhouse. One will be an obstacle course, one is a large climb and slide, and the other will be a safe toddler sized inflatable. They were sponsored

by Clark Community Oil.

Free two-card bingo will be held in the main gym with prizes from Clark businesses. Plenty of prizes are available to win!

The Clark High School FCCLA members will be serving a free will donation meal in the lunchroom. The meal will include BBQ, chips, bar and a bottle of water.

"We are so excited to bring this event back this year!" ex-

claimed Clark Area Chamber of Commerce President Lacey Helkenn. "We got lucky and have had a pretty mild winter, but we're still ready to Jump Into Spring!" she said. "The Chamber really enjoys putting on events that both support our businesses and give our community a reason to gather together and have some fun."

Two municipal elections will be held in Clark County

▲ Vienna and Garden City need elections

An election will be held in Vienna on April 9. As voters go to the polls, the three-year council position will be decided. Incumbent Luella Regnier is being challenged by Anthony Coquette.

Garden City will also be holding an election on April 9 for a three-year board member position. Incumbent Joyce Hansen is being challenged by Norm Alexander.

No other elections will be necessary in 2024. Municipal election day is Tuesday, April 9.

In Clark, Ward I, Ward II and Ward III incumbents Brandon

Kottke, Derrick Dohmann and Andrew Zemlicka were the only ones to file, and will automatically continue for three more years.

In Willow Lake, there will be no need for an election. The incumbents who filed petitions were: Mayor Delwin Bratland filed for a two-year term, Scott Borg of Ward I filed for a two-year term, Steven Johnson of Ward II filed a petition for the two-year term. Matthew Kadinger of Ward I, did not file a petition, so the one-year term will need to be appointed. Leland

Harding III's term on Ward II will expire in May of 2025.

Raymond does not need an election as incumbent Scott Drexler decided not to run for re-election and Eric Mehlberg filed for the three-year term, which begins May 6, 2024.

At Henry School, Audrey Rider will again be on the school board for a term of three years. There are now three openings on the board. Henry School are now in need of three people to be appointed to one-year terms.

Tumbling, gymnastics classes coming soon to Clark

By Tara Knutson

A new activity for children in the Clark community is set to commence this summer. Tuck and Tumble, LLC is a gymnastics and tumbling organization that was founded out of love for the sport, attempting to fill a community need.

Founder Sarah McHenry has spent countless hours herself both in the gym working on her own skills as a kid and coaching younger kids. Growing up in Fort Pierre, South Dakota, McHenry actively participated on the Stanley County gymnastics team in middle school and high school. She then spent her summers coaching summer recreational gymnastic programs.

Now, with her own children, she wants to share the love for the sport with the next generation. "My own children have taken an interest in the sport, and I no longer want to travel with my young family to Watertown for classes on a weekly basis. After visiting with other parents, I found that others felt the same way and discovered that there was a need for such a program within our community," she explained.

Her original intention was to hold a class in the garage at her home, but soon realized that was not going to be a feasible option. "I posted on Facebook in February asking who may be interested in joining me, and within 24 hours, I had over 43 responses!"

McHenry then started to explore other options. Her husband Jason suggested the Clark American Legion. "I reached out to them and found that the

space would work great. I'm able to store some equipment in the basement and hold the classes upstairs," she explained.

"Right now, I'm planning to have classes Mondays and Thursdays, but due to the high numbers of interest, I'm still figuring the exact class configurations," McHenry said. Due to the high volume of interested people, she has been seeking local gymnastic leaders to help run the classes.

"Moving from my original plan of holding three classes of 10 kids each one day a week, to a new plan of two days with up to 60 kids is a good problem to have," McHenry stated. She may even have to limit the number of children in the program in order to maintain quality of instruction and ensure safety of each participant.

Children ages four to eight were the original intended participants during the early planning stages. With incoming inquiries, McHenry is considering expanding it to ages 3-10. There will be no competition involved in the program and the intention of the class is to build skills. "With ages three to four, my goal is to focus on gross and fine motor skills, body confidence, balance, and flexibility. I plan to incorporate activities to improve hand-eye coordination with the smaller children." With the older kids, the focus will shift to more gymnastic skills building.

Starting this endeavor with a budget allows McHenry to plan for growing in the future. The equipment available for the classes to start includes equip-

ment that she had on hand for her own kids, such as mats and trampolines. Bars and tumbling equipment have been borrowed or bought.

McHenry noted that the equipment needs to be age appropriate for younger children. "I wanted floor beams that were only one to two feet off the ground. But, as the club continues to grow, additional equipment will be purchased to continue to advance the skills of the children. By the winter session, I would like to have a foam pit available."

Due to gymnastics being such a high risk sport, extra insurance had to be added into the financial configuration. "Insurance kind of blew my start up budget," McHenry chuckled.

The tumbling classes are set to be presented in sessions, with the first session running from July to August. "We are working around my husband's busy seasons in the fields, so he can help care for our young family," she explained. A second session is scheduled for the winter months.

Going forward, McHenry has a business goal of being able to host birthday parties and other events, but she stressed, "I have to get my feet wet with everything else first."

Sarah lives just outside of Clark with her husband Jason and their children, four-year-old twins Hallie and Logan and two-year-old Sadie. McHenry currently works as a PRN Registered Nurse with Avera DeSmet Memorial Hospital and Sanford Clinic of Watertown.

Tarbox retires after 23 years at Westside Implement

By Carolyn Olson

Vernon Tarbox has been the counter parts sales manager at Westside Implement in Clark for the last 23 years. A retirement party is being held in his honor at Westside Implement on Friday, April 5 at 2:00 p.m. His last day at the Westside Implement counter will be Friday, April 26.

Tarbox grew up on a family farm south of Bradley. He attended his first six years of school at Thorp Consolidated, a little country school that was just a few miles away from his family farm. His last six years of secondary education were completed at Clark High School. After graduation, Tarbox went to college at Lake Area Tech in Watertown where he studied agrusiness for one year.

Westside Implement has been Tarbox's workplace for 23 years. Prior to becoming the parts manager, he worked as a farmer. "I was with Kyle one year after I got out of farming back in '94," he said.

Tarbox lives on an acreage east of Bradley with his wife of 24 years, Christine (Chris). He has three children, son William, late son Keith, and daughter Amber. He also has three stepchildren Matthew, Corey and Nicole. Together Tarbox and Chris have 15 grandchildren.

"After retirement, I plan to work on some of my projects at home. I've also got some neighbors



Vernon Tarbox has been working at Westside Implement for the last 23 years. A retirement party will be held to celebrate his dedicated service on Friday, April 5 at 2:00 p.m., though his last day of work will be Friday, April 26.

Photo by Carolyn Olson

that have talked to me about helping them with a little field work," he explained. "I'll also have more time to spend with the grandkids." Aside from work, Tarbox enjoys fishing with his stepson Matthew, doing carpentry work,

hunting and spending time with his family.

"I will miss the good people I've worked with throughout the years, but I have really enjoyed meeting new people and gaining a lot of great friends."



Special Olympics t-shirt quilt made by Binger

By Carolyn Olson

Cayden Binger, a senior at Clark High School, is the son of Andrea Binger (Mike Clyde) and the late Cory Binger. Cayden has two brothers, Gage and Tyler, and two sisters, Cortney and Emily.

"We didn't really know what to do for Cayden's senior project at first," Andrea explained. "Over the years, we have collected lots and lots of t-shirts from the Special Olympics games, so I had thought about the quilt as something I wanted to get made for him," she said. "When his special education teacher and mentor, Susan Schmit, brought it up, Cayden and I both said yes!"

"I was eight or nine when I got into Special Olympics. It was track and soccer time when I got started," Cayden said. "I had lots of energy, and running was one of my favorite things to do."

Special Olympics gave Cayden the opportunity to make more friends, and he enjoyed going to the dances they had at the events.

He has all sorts of medals and ribbons from his Special Olympics competitions, including gold, silver and bronze. "My most special medal was a huge gold medal from National Special Olympics games in Florida!" Cayden exclaimed. "I also have many pins from people in different states that we have all traded."

"Special Olympics has been the best for Cayden," Andrea said. "It's brought out a little bit of a competitive side of him. I love how excited he gets for his teammates when they do well."

For Andrea, watching Cayden and his teammates in Florida was definitely a highlight. "Being from a small town sometimes has its disadvantages, but we have had some pretty fantastic advantages because of some pretty great people here, and I can't thank them all enough," Andrea added.

Another special moment from his years in Special Olympics is a beaded medallion that Cayden's brother Gage made just for him.



Cayden Binger is pictured with his Special Olympics quilt he made for his senior project, left. It is hanging up on display at Clark High School. Above, Binger is wearing his favorite Special Olympics beaded medallion made by his brother, Gage.

Left photo by Carolyn Olson Above photo by Andrea Binger

WEATHER

Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
March 26	26	15	0.22
March 27	21	4	0.02
March 28	28	4	0
March 29	37	14	0
March 30	47	28	0
March 31	38	30	0
April 1	38	29	0.09
2024 precipitation to date			1.54"
2023 precipitation to date			2.03"

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