

## Potato Day is Saturday, August 7

Potato Days, 2021 is a little over two weeks away! Make sure you put down August 6, 7 and 8 on your calendar.

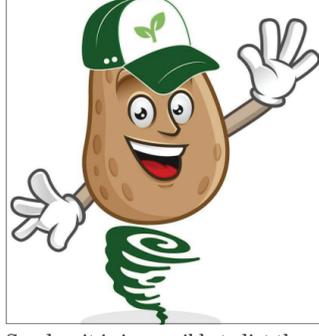
There was no Potato Days in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. So, with a year off from this great community event, one and all should be ready for a community celebration.

Sponsored by the Clark Chamber of Commerce, the Spudniks, as well as individual or group sponsorship, events and activities are planned for the entire family regardless of your age.

Tammy Rusher is the Chamber president and Cassi Kottke and Robin Hartley are in charge of Potato Days. Kottke, Hartley and the Potato Days committee have been working hard to make this weekend

special for one and all.

So many activities are planned for Saturday, as well as some on Friday and community church on



Sunday, it is impossible to list them all in story form. A schedule will be inserted into the *Clark County*

*Courier* the week before the event.

This would have been the 30th Potato Days, had there been one in 2020. The event started as a Clark High School Homecoming event, with the game on Saturday afternoon, starting in 1992.

Eventually Mashed Potato Wrestling replaced the high school football game which went back to Friday night.

This year there won't be a football game but there will be a 16 and under (16U) South Dakota State Tournament at Dakota style Field in Dickinson Park the same time as 2021 Potato Days.

Swimming Pool Park will be the prime destination for Potato Days this year. And, as is the norm, ac-

**Potato Days**  
(continued on page 3)



It's a team effort. From left to right are manager Tammy Rusher, Emily Dohmann, Jeff Seefeldt, head groundskeeper John Brown, Jim Woodland and Laurie Rahm. This is the 2021 Clark Municipal Golf Club employee crew. Being a seasonal spot, the golf course continues to be busy.

## It's all about birdies, pars and bogeys

The Clark Municipal Golf Course looks gorgeous right now. That might not be true in two weeks as the forecast is for 90° heat daily and no precipitation.

In the last two weeks Clark has received 2.5 inches of rain. Crops, yards and fairways look great.

As one drives around or past the Clark Golf Course, it seems to usually be busy. The busiest times are Tuesday - women's night; Thursday - men's night and Saturday tournaments.

Young golfers are out in the mornings learning the golf vernacular such as birdie = one under par; par is for how many strokes a good golfer needs to put the ball in the hole and bogey is one over par.

Tammy Rusher is the golf club manager. She oversees all employees, tournaments and general goings-one.

With the golf course being an important aspect of the city of Clark, she really appreciates the community support.

"We're seeing growth," she said and noted it was from out of town golfers as well as the 25 to 30 group who scramble on Thursday nights.

There is new kitchen equipment and different types of food can be served.

John Brown is the head groundskeeper at the golf course. To those who are 'into golf', Brown is very appreciated for what he does

**Golf course**  
(continued on page 3)



The Emil M. Larson Library in Clark is celebrating 100 years in Clark. The first location was on the corner of US Highway 212 and Commercial Street and then on the north side of 212 and the east side of Commercial Street. Tara Thomas is the current librarian. Library Board members include, left to right, board president Barb Pollock, Brenda Jenkins, Mayor Kerry Kline, Thomas, Chris Jenkins, vice president Patty Rosenau and Mona Marshall.

## Emil M. Larson Library celebrates 100 years

One hundred years ago this month, in July, 1921, the Clark Library opened. The Emil M. Larson Library will be celebrating with an open house on Friday, July 30.

The library currently has secured a \$10,000 grant to bring all categorized books to an on-line server. Plus a new computer system has been purchased.

Tara Thomas, librarian since

2018 will be the hostess for the open house day at the city library located in the west end of the Ulyot building on North Commercial Street.

Librarians over the years at the library have been Mrs. H.L. Ratliff, Fay Hurlbut, Martha Severence, assisted by Margaret Neal, Sophia Logan, Lillian Reed, Dorcas Protector, Samantha Hensley, Kim Taylor and current librarian Tara Thomas.

### Library history

The library was founded July 1, 1921 by the newly organized Clark Woman's Federated Club. The library was its first major civic project. During the two years in this one-room facility, Mrs. H.L. Ratliff, wife of the Methodist minister and member of the club, was the first li-

**Library**  
(continued on page 5)

## Clark County 4-Achievement Days are right around the corner

The summer is going pretty fast this year, with July coming soon to an end. This is the time of year, when the 'heat is on' for the local 4-H youth to get ready for the upcoming Clark County 4-H Achievement Days.

More often than not, Clark County 4-H Achievement Days are after Potato Days. In 2021 that is not the case.

The Achievement Days event will be spread out over four days this year. On Monday, August 2, will be the judging of Static Exhibits.

On Tuesday, August 3, the dog show runs from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The poultry show is at 2:00 p.m. with the remaining livestock set to enter the grounds from 2:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday and Thursday, August 4 and 5 will be the livestock shows. At 8:00 a.m. the swine show starts with the beef show set to begin 30 minutes after the conclusion of the swine show. The chicken barbecue will be from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. and the evening program will finish

out the day's events.

On Thursday's agenda is the rabbit show at 8:00 a.m., sheep show at 11:00 a.m. and goat show at 1:00 p.m.

Kimberly McGraw is the 4-H advisor for Spink and Clark counties



and she is in charge of all 4-H activities along with the Clark County 4-H leaders.

"Things are coming together but some work still needs to be done," according to 4-H Youth Advisor McGraw.

This is the 92nd annual Clark County Achievement Days with McGraw and staff busy finalizing plans. Many exhibits, livestock shows, programs and entertainment will be featured.

The 4-H member families will be running the lunch stand this year. The popular chicken barbecue served by the 4-H Leaders will be held on Wednesday evening, August 8, beginning at 5:30 p.m. The program featuring the style show and graduating member recognition will follow the barbecue at approximately 7:15 p.m.

The day that the 4-H static exhibits will be judged is not open to the public. Judging starts at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, August 2.

The judges at the show this year will be: Beef - Wesley Johnson of Pipestone, Minn.; Swine - Mike Clark of Ramona; Sheep and Goat - Tommy Norman of Brookings; Poultry - Wayne Fischer of Arlington; Rabbit, cat and companion animal - Mike Grann of Wallace and Dog - Christy Zoss of Forestburg.

## Schools seek ways to overcome COVID-19 learning loss

Andrew Rasmussen  
*South Dakota News Watch*

South Dakota public school systems are trying to provide additional education to thousands of students who lost ground in learning during the COVID-19 pandemic, but educators and parents face major challenges in trying to keep students on track.

Almost half of South Dakota School districts, many in rural areas, do not have summer school programs aimed at keeping students on pace or helping them catch up in learning. Some districts that offer summer school programs are seeing heightened enrollment as students try to avoid falling behind after two school years of pandemic-related instructional interruptions and upheaval.

tion over the summer months is important in a normal set of circumstances, but with the pandemic the need has been expanded, especially for those in rural communities.

The typical summer learning loss, in which students lose educational progress over the summer months when most schools are not in session, was compounded during the pandemic, when many schools either shut down temporarily, shifted to online, remote learning, or had teachers working in challenging classroom conditions.

In South Dakota and across the country, educators are worried that it will be difficult or even impossible to ensure that students who lost significant learning time during the pandemic will be able to make up the lost instruction before moving to the next grade or toward graduation.

tion.

"The gaps that happen in a student's learning are one of the most detrimental things that can happen to the continual progress and growth," said Patrick Hales, a professor at South Dakota State University who coordinates the SDSU secondary teacher education program.

Nationwide, 53% of educators surveyed reported "significant loss of learning" and 44% saw "some loss of learning" over the past school year, according to a study conducted by Horace Mann Educators Corporation in February and March 2021.

While most South Dakota students had in-person instruction for much of the year, the impacts of COVID-19 still slowed the learning process for many children.

The Rapid City Area Schools system, the state's second-largest district that serves about 14,000 students, recorded 6,169 student absences due to positive COVID-19 tests or quarantine protocols in the recent school year, equaling about 70,000 learning days missed, according to Superintendent Lori Simon.

Educators also were hampered by the pandemic. In Rapid City, 828 of the district's roughly 1,800 staff members missed work due to COVID-19 during the last school year, a loss of the equivalent of 10,230 days of teaching or administrative time.

In an attempt to make up for lost classroom time, the district has seen a nearly 400% increase in participation in high-school credit recovery summer courses offered in

2021 compared to 2019.

"When you think about half of our students out and missing that much school, it's going to have an impact on learning," said Simon. "When you think about staff, especially teachers not being in front of their classrooms and the lack of availability of substitute teachers, you put all of that together and certainly there are concerns about learning loss."

Long before the COVID-19 pandemic, summer learning loss was an annual concern for schools and school districts, especially among students in rural areas who do not have access to summer programming or those from low-income or minority families, including Native Americans, who historically have struggled more than their peers.

"It's just a fact of the matter that

the learning loss is going to happen, particularly for the students that need it not to happen the most," said Hales. "It puts students who are behind even further behind in terms of meeting learning goals."

**Learning loss**  
(continued on page 3)

### WEATHER

Robert Cole - Official  
Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
July 13.....	82	61	0
July 14.....	84	63	.04
July 15.....	79	60	.13
July 16.....	81	60	0
July 17.....	80	62	0
July 18.....	82	65	0
July 19.....	85	65	0
2021 precipitation to date	11.48		
2020 precipitation to date	10.78		