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The hometown newspaper of Victor Saur, Gillette, WY

Wellnitz attends Chiefs of Police conference in Philadelphia, Pa.

Clark police chief Jeremy Wellnitz recently attended the 124th annual conference and exposition of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, in Philadelphia, Pa.

It was held at the Pennsylvania Convention Center in Philadelphia, from October 21-24. Officer Wellnitz applied for a scholarship to attend the conference and was selected to attend. Only four from South Dakota were chosen to attend this conference.

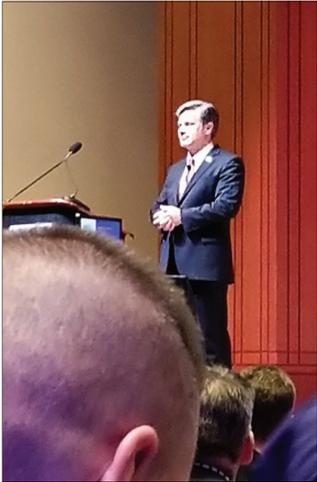
Wellnitz is the third vice president of the South Dakota Police Chiefs Association, a two year position he was elected to last fall.

Wellnitz was accompanied to Philadelphia on this trip by his fiancé Alaina Henning, who paid her own expenses. They went one day early and did some sightseeing.

Henning is a victim witness coordinator through the office of states attorneys and assists crime victims in 11 east central counties in South Dakota. Also enjoying history, she spent time touring Philadelphia's historic sites while Wellnitz attended the conference. The couple is planning a wedding for this spring.

There were 282 educational tracks to attend and eight were chosen out of those to fit in to Wellnitz' schedule over the four days.

"One goal of the conference is to network with others, learning what other agencies are doing - what's working and what's not" stated Wellnitz.



FBI Director Christopher Wray spoke to the police convention delegates.

departments world wide.) After the convention orientation, Wellnitz chose "The use of open source and social media to identify Actionable Intelligence in Investigations" for his first workshop. That was followed by: "How to get free access to mobile officer Investments to Your agency"; "Better Communication: The use of social media"; "Advancing 21st century Policing in smaller, rural and Tribal communities"; FBI director

Wellnitz (continued on page 3)

WEATHER

Ryan Eggleston - Official Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
Dec. 19	34	22	0
Dec. 20	27	15	0
Dec. 21	17	1	0
Dec. 22	22	2	0
Dec. 23	21	2	0
Dec. 24	18	-8	tr
Dec. 25	-2	-14	0
2017 precipitation to date	23.08		
2016 precipitation to date	21.93		

Clark homeowners to see similar tax amount in 2018

Some things are inevitable - like death and taxes. Every year taxes go up. The average home owner in Clark should expect to pay about the same in taxes in 2018 than he/she paid this year, according to figures compiled from the Clark County Auditor's office. (Depending on where one lives in Clark County, the amount one pays in taxes will differ and this story just shows figures for a city of Clark (homeowner) resident, regarding tax requests,

from 2017 into 2018. As the year progresses, hopefully more entities will be shown in Courier stories. Not all tax districts will mirror the city of Clark.)

The tax increase for 2018 is somewhat slight. The city, county and school district total is \$6,598,379.15, down from \$6,713,872.50 payable in 2017.

According to the auditor's office, most property (owner-occupied) will see a very slight increase, if any. If

the average home owner in Clark paid \$2,000 in taxes a year ago, that number will be quite close to that again this year.

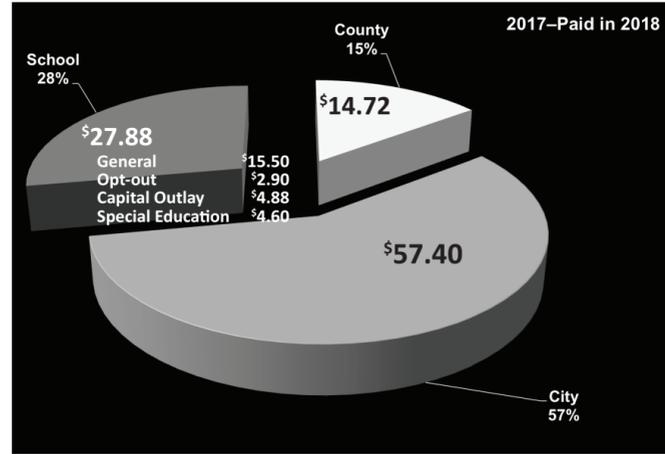
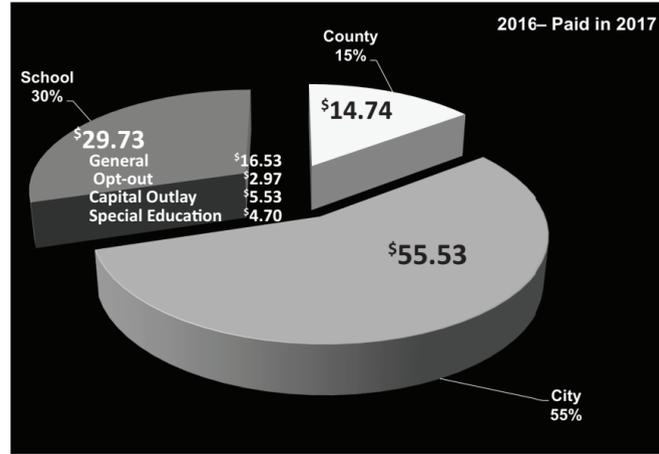
City requests constant

While property taxes are always on the increase, Clark finance officer Jackie Luttrell said that in her 15 years in this position that tax requests have remained constant and consistent. Municipal taxing districts rely on two factors, consumer price index (CPI) and growth, as to

what amount can be available for taxation. The city growth last year was 2.39, which is a positive number for a small community.

"As one looks at the pie charts - it looks funny and maybe a little skewed, percentage-wise, but one must remember this is specific to city residents. Any town (tax chart) will look like this," and the talk turned to what the city uses tax dollars

Clark homeowners (continued on page 3)



Owner-occupied (home owners) may expect to pay \$57.40 of each \$100 in local property taxes to the city general fund. The school district will get \$27.88 of every \$100 in taxes and the county will get \$14.72.

Tax Requests for Clark (city) landowners only

	Payable 2017	Payable 2018
City	\$440,787.29	\$455,723.75
County	2,698,394.11	2,740,499.16
Clark School District 12-2	3,574,691.22	3,402,156.24
County General Fund		3,615,911.58
City		455,723.75
School		
General Fund		1,605,188.05
Opt-out		300,932.97
Capital Outlay		770,105.02
Special Education		725,930.20

Taxable Valuations Payable 2017 Payable 2018

County Ag	\$920,620,489	\$963,851,072
County Owner Occupied	26,904,651	30,158,681
County Non-Ag	13,400,773	14,015,055
City Ag	800,816	802,884
City Owner Occupied	27,825,542	28,461,612
City Non-Ag	16,464,140	16,603,347
Mobile Home Values		
County Ag: Owner Occupied	1,414,731	1,420,059
County Other: Non-Ag	339,567	330,400
City: Owner Occupied	792,582	776,892
City: Non-Ag	49,669	77,249

The Clark County Year in Review - Part I

The last issue of 2017 always contains - 2017 Year in Review in Clark County - the first half.

How will one remember 2017?

In Clark County the weather is always memorable and along with school, county and municipal activities there are many highlights.

The Crocker Wind Farm, going through the conditional use permitting on the county level, took center stage.

Here are the first six months of 2017 in review. Enjoy.

January

David Moritz, owner of Moritz Publishing in Clark has officially retired after a printing career spanning 50 years, most of it in Clark.

New elected officials take over at the Clark County Courthouse, including new commissioner Chris Sass. Violet Wicks is elected chairman of the Clark County Board of Commissioners.



The 1911 Farmers and Citizens State Bank in Raymond, owned by Wanda and Gene Bethke is officially listed on the National Register of Historic Places as of December 6, 2016.

Clark County Commissioners approve Vanguard Appraisals, an Iowa firm to reassess the parcels in Clark County, excluding bare ag land, in 2019-20.

Fire destroyed the machine shop and equipment it housed at Wulf Cattle (formerly Riverside Dairy) on New Years Eve. Wulf Cattle is a large feed lot located seven miles south of Raymond.

Brad and Laura McGirr of Creative Printing, Huron and Brookings opened Creative Printing, in Clark.

The City of Clark moves forward with the annexation process of the Big C Travel Plaza, which eventually became a reality.

The 1911 Farmers and Citizens State Bank building, Raymond, owned by Gene and Wanda Bethke is



January weather, had a little bit of everything. The first week of the new year saw five times the low in double digits below zero. School was canceled several times during the month.

But unseasonably warm temperatures in the middle of the month, 37° when this photo was taken had more boots being carried than were worn at Clark Elementary School. Second grade teacher Melissa Nesheim stops Mason Wookey to put his hat on him which he didn't think he needed that day. In the foreground are Jakob Steen and Cole Wangsness.

now officially listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Prior to Bethke's purchasing the property, it was known as the old Legion building.

Randy Angermeier is hired as the new Clark County Ambulance Administrator. He started in November of 2016.

Randy and Karen Gruenwald, owners of Dakota Butcher in Clark, were named business delegates for a legislative briefing, in Pierre, sponsored by the South Dakota Retailers Association.

\$10,510,365 was reportedly spent in 2016 construction in Clark County. 108 permits were issued.

Tavie Guzman, Justus Reidburn and Jennifer Hurlbert received outstanding actor awards at the Region II B contest in Watertown.

February

The Willow Lake UCC Church and the United Presbyterian Church merge to form Lake Gospel, in Willow Lake.

Former area high schools, which now form the Cyclone Co-op district were honored at half times of basketball games. Bradley, Vienna, Garden City and Raymond were all honored during February.

Clark/Hamlin Cattlemen hold the 3rd Annual Pen Display in Willow Lake. Pen Display initiator Randy Nelson, Carpenter stated that Todd Wilkinson was the guest speaker.

Initiated Measure 22 was repealed by the State Legislature. IM 22 was passed by the people during the general election as an anti-corruption measure, but was actually a monster piece of legislation weighing in at 70 sections and more than 30 pages.

Michaela Flora, a senior at Clark High School served as a legislative page, sponsored by Sen. Brock Greenfield.



Henry School superintendent Steve Zirbel was honored as Outstanding Administrator recently at the State Student Council Convention in Rapid City. Additionally, Principal Phil Schonebaum was presented an award for Student Council Advisor of the Year.

Greg Furness researched the Furness Bermuda Cruise Line, uncovering many interesting artifacts from the cruise line that began in 1930.

The Clark-Willow Lake Cyclones won the Lake Central/Big East conference wrestling tournament, scoring 139.5 points. Gage Burke (106), Josh Weisbrod (132), Jess Karber (145), Caleb Orris (170) and Tate Shape (285) each won championships.

The following week Cyclone wrestlers Gage Burke, Josh Weisbrod, Jess Karber, Wyatt Burke, Brandon Gehrke, Landon Werdel, Caleb Orris and Tate Shape qualify for the State B tourney, in Sioux Falls.

IM 22 talk dominates the 2017 Clark County Cracker Barrel. Senator Brock Greenfield and Rep. Lana Greenfield along with Rep. Burt Tulson talked the basics and history of IM 22 and why it was repealed.

The Cyclone boys basketball team finished the regular season at 18-2, winning the Northeast Conference for the seventh time in eight years.



Luke Mueller, of First District Planning, in Watertown and Bob Bjerke, both standing, finish going over housekeeping strategies for the Clark County Board of Adjustments Crocker Wind Farm conditional use permit hearing. The American Legion Hall was full of interested patrons.

Others pictured on the podium include, left to right, commissioner Richard Reints, Director of Equalization Jarvis Reidburn, Mueller, Bjerke, States Attorney Chad Fjelland and commissioner Chris Sass. Commissioner Francis Hass is not pictured, as he was next to Sass.



Ryder LaMont, Kelsey Hofer and Hadley Gjerde read over their instructions before they drove their wiggler racers in the 'Egg-mazing Race' game at Willow Lake School.

Both the Clark senior class and the Willow Lake senior class toured the Capitol building in Pierre and watched the State Legislature in action.

Year in review (continued on page 3)