



City council uses December meeting to get year-end financials finalized

Along with routine business, the December meeting of the Clark City Council dealt with financials - finishing this year and starting 2016. Effective January 1, 2016 the City of Clark, according to finance officer Jackie Luttrell, will change to cash basis accounting, away from the current GATSBY format. "It is just a better, more effective way for small cities, such as Clark, to do accounting," said Luttrell. She added that in the annual report is the only place where this will be seen. "I've talked to various agencies and the auditor and I would like to see this change." When councilman Dennis Larson asked her, again, about the auditor, she said, "No problem."

The next topic was when the council would like to schedule a year-end meeting, to finalize claims and a contingency transfer. "I really don't think this year-end meeting is necessary, as we took care of these things earlier tonight and I feel we have all loose ends pretty tied up," said Luttrell.

"Cash balances are up to date and we have a handle on all end of the year stuff and that's important

as we change accounting formats." The council approved a supplementing appropriations budget of \$130,479.60. This supplementing appropriations budget included: Street Lighting, \$2,100.00; Swimming Pool, \$30,000.00; Golf Course, \$15,000.00; Parks, \$5,600.00; TIF #2, \$5,659.60 and Clubhouse Project, \$72,120.00.

Prior to that the council approved depreciation of the 2015 Construction Work in Progress (CWIP) whereby the city paid expenses from the Retention Pond project of \$29,050.54. Plus, sewer short lived assets of \$14,741.21 from the Dakota Pump bill, was moved back to the sewer fund.

In other business:

▲ A half hour executive session was held for personnel and contractual reasons. Following the session, the council approved a \$150.00 flat rate for police officers who are on call on major holidays.

▲ During the public input portion of the meeting, Clark resident DeWayne Headley visited with the

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The beauty of the lights for the season

Christmas is but two and a half weeks away. As the five inches of snow is all but melted and temperatures are a good 15° above normal, we will see less winter, but at the same time does it really feel that Christmas is this close?

The beautiful Christmas lights and decorations in the area definitely

are worth seeing and help with the Christmas spirit, even with warmer than average temperatures. When that first big cold snap hits, it will be interesting to see if one and all are bundled up for the occasion.

Above, the Willie and Pat Gruenwald residence is always one of the top 'lit up' homes in the county and area.

December is and will continue to show warmer than average conditions

A record warm autumn ended in a winter storm across South Dakota on the last day of meteorological fall.

"The snow was a large transition with eight weather stations setting new records for warmest fall seasons (September through November) according to preliminary data from the S.D. State Climate Office and National Weather Service," said Dennis Today, South Dakota State Climatologist & SDSU Extension Climate Specialist. "A warmer than average fall season was predicted by the Climate Prediction Center, and that forecast certainly held true for South Dakota this year."

The eight stations recording their warmest fall season were Bison, De Smet, Edgemont, Lemmon, Maurice, Summit, Watertown and Wau-bay. Another 53 climate stations ranked fall 2015 among the top 10 warmest. Today said the remaining stations ranked this fall among the top 20 warmest.

November 2015 temperatures overall were not as remarkable.

Fewer than 10 stations ranked the month among the top 10 warmest. "About 15 stations across the state ranked in the top 15 warmest on record. Temperatures were closer to average at the end of the month which kept the state away from establishing more records," explained Laura Edwards, SDSU Extension Climate Field Specialist.

She explained that the significant snowstorms which hit mid-month and again on the last day of November punctuated the end to autumn.

Sioux Falls sets snowfall records

Sioux Falls set two, single-day snowfall records in the same month. A handful of weather station locations in the southeast, including Sioux Falls airport and Canton, ranked Nov. 2015 among the top five wettest in more than 100 years. Some other stations scattered across South Dakota also landed this November among the top 10 wettest; including Mt. Rushmore, Philip, Pickstown and De Smet.

Some volunteer weather observ-

ers with the CoCoRaHS (Community Collaborative Rain Hail & Snow Network www.cocorahs.org) network reported more than 20 inches of snow for the month; including the November 30 to December 1 storm.

There were also some dry locations, which have been depicted in the U.S. Drought Monitor as Abnormally Dry (D0) for most of the

December
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WEATHER			
Ryan Eggleston - Official Weather Observer			
	HI	LO	PR
Nov. 30	28	25	.65
Dec. 1	29	24	tr
Dec. 2	24	8	0
Dec. 3	30	14	0
Dec. 4	41	24	0
Dec. 5	35	20	0
Dec. 6	41	26	0
Dec. 7	40	28	0
2015 precipitation to date	21.99"		
2014 precipitation to date	15.78"		

CHS Christmas music concert is Thursday

Thursday, December 10 is the middle school and high school band and choir concert at Clark School. The concert will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the high school gym.

The jazz band will perform *Kings of Swing*, *I'll Be Home for Christmas* and *Feliz Navidad*. *Up on the Housetop*, *Jolly Old St. Nick* and *Jingle Bells* are next on the program, all played by the fifth grade band. Selections performed by the sixth grade band will be *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*, *Frosty the Snowman* and *Festive Christmas Overture*.

The concert band will perform *White Christmas*, *A Christmas Hymn* and *Rhapsody in Red and Green*.

The junior high choir will sing *Christmas Kum Ba Ya* and the senior girl choir members will perform *Ring Silver Bells*.

CHS Christmas
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Connie Merkel attends World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia; sees the Pope

"When I saw the poster at St. Michael's Church on this year's annual 'World Meeting of Families' convention this summer, I thought to myself, now is the time for me to go to this," related Connie Merkel of Bradley. "The timing was right at this time of my life with less responsibilities, so I signed up to go."

"It was just a wonderful week. There were so many excellent speakers that just left you in awe," continued Merkel. "Our logo on everything was *Love is Our Mission - the family fully alive*."

With Philadelphia being noted as the city of brotherly love, it seemed appropriate that this was the location noted Merkel. The whole trip was well planned and orchestrated for the group. "I just had to be sure to be on the bus at the right time."

The highlight of her trip was being served communion that was consecrated by Pope Francis, the day after her group caught a glimpse of him as he went by in his motorcade. She was about 20 feet away from him as he drove by in his Popemobile.

"It was like a jeep or ATV with a clear shield that came up in the front and back and curved around him," described Merkel. "The sides were open though and his security people would often bring a child or baby from the crowd that would be held out for him to bless. He usually kissed them on the head. The motorcade would slow down in advance of seeing a baby or child held out for him. You could tell, he would

Merkel
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Connie Merkel had the opportunity to attend the World Meeting of Families convention last September in Philadelphia along with 43 members of the Catholic faith from South Dakota.

The highlight of her trip was being able to take communion consecrated by Pope Francis, the day after they saw his motorcade and Pope Francis in person in Philadelphia.

Shown above at the convention center by a cardboard cutout of the Pope is Merkel who thoroughly enjoyed her emotional and uplifting week at the convention.



Hurlbert wins State FFA Prepared Public Speaking

Junior Jennifer Hurlbert, Clark, center, won the Prepared Public Speaking contest with a gold award, Monday, at the State FFA Leadership Career Development Events (CDEs), in Pierre. On the left is Sarah McClure of Hoven, gold award winner and on the right is Riggen Zelinsky, Brookings, silver award winner.

There were 11 leadership area contests.

Area FFA students and teams did quite well, at Pierre. The Willow Lake Parliamentary Procedure team earned a Silver award, as did Joslyn Hurlbert, Clark in Extemporaneous Public Speaking and Bailey Miles, Clark, in Ag Broadcasting/Journalism.

Sunday School programs are being held in the area

Many children's Christmas programs in individual churches will be held this holiday season. Christmas celebrations will continue as Christians in the community and around the world recognize the birth of the Savior and the new life he brought to the world.

Clark services
At the Clark United Methodist

Church a children's program will be held on December 20 during worship at 11:00 a.m.

At St. Paul Lutheran, 8:45 a.m. on December 13, the Sunday School program will be held during worship.

The Assembly of God will have their church Christmas program with children and adults on Sunday, December 13 at 7:00 p.m.

At the Plymouth Congregational Church (UCC) their children's Sunday School program will be held on the 13th at 9:30 a.m. during the church service.

The Baptist Church of Clark is planning on a Christmas program with refreshments to follow on

Sunday School
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2. Sign up for Phone, Internet and TV and get \$100!*



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