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The hometown newspaper of Ralph Peterson, Aberdeen, SD

"The time is always right to do what is right,"
Martin Luther King, Jr.

City of Clark continues annexation process with Big C Travel Plaza

The Clark City Council, at the January meeting, held Wednesday, January 4, moved forward with the annexation process of the Big C Travel Plaza, owned by Clark Community Oil.

With two Planning and Zoning resolutions being recommended, the city council announced that a resolution to annex the Big C Travel Plaza will be considered at the February meeting of the city council.

Formal annexation consideration will take place next month regarding Big C into the City of Clark. This has been in the plans for approximately a year, as in October, Midwest Veterinary Service just to the west of Big C Travel Plaza was annexed into the city limits.

2017 election

Five seats are up for election on the city council this year. The municipal election is scheduled for

Tuesday, April 11, 2017.

Leading the list for open positions this year is that of Clark mayor. Larry Dreher has been mayor since 2011. Council person seats up for election are: Ward I, Vicki Orris and Belinda Hanson; Ward II, Kerry Kline and Ward III, Dennis Larson.

In 2002 city positions changed from two, to three-year terms.

In other business:

▲ A brief, 15 minute executive session was held for personnel and contractual reasons. No motions were necessary following this closed session.

▲ Police Chief Jeremy Wellnitz, in his monthly report, stated there were 1,318 miles traveled. Calls for service were 56 with 11 being vandalism and nine traffic stops.

▲ Water rates are increasing by 20¢ per 1,000 gallons starting with the February billing. It is now (af-

ter passed ordinance) at \$4.70 per 1,000 gallons.

▲ \$19,625 was transferred from the water restricted for depreciation and replaced to water fund to cover Dakota Pump bill for water pump.

▲ The 2017 operations manual was approved.

▲ The city council approved the trading in of the skid steer at West-side Implement. Street superintendent Roger Collins also discussed repairs needed to some equipment and to street sweeper.

▲ Council members present included Louann Streff, Belinda Hanson, Andrew Zemlicka, Kerry Kline and Dennis Larson on speaker phone. Vicki Orris was absent. Also present were Mayor Dreher, finance officer Jackie Luttrell and city attorney Chad Fjelland.

Clark School Board talks financial budget picture

Much of the hour and forty-five minute public portion of the January meeting of the Clark School Board, Monday, dealt with financials. The 2017-2018 preliminary budget discussion, along with updates on the strategic plans and an expenditure report by function of the current budget by business manager Mary Nelson were the major time consuming agenda items.

The school board will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 1 to hold a strategic planning data retreat. Several policy book items will also be looked upon at this meeting.

It was during the business manager's report segment when Nelson went through the 46-page expenditure report by function. She showed the board what percentage of each respective fund balance had been spent to this point in the school year. It was noted that the elementary school bond has now been paid off in its entirety.

As far as the 2017-2018 preliminary budget is concerned, the cur-

rent fund balance of \$643,652 was noted and then the talk turned to potential legislative action and what could cause 'red flags' to appear in the future financial picture.

The paying of public utilities is now being paid out of the general fund, with 45 percent still being able to be transferred out of capital outlay, for this year only. "It's a \$96,000 expenditure and we knew that this transfer (from capital outlay to general fund) was coming," said Nelson.

Superintendent Luanne Warren shared with the board updates on various capital outlay projects, including the elementary playground and the sports complex west of the high school.

"With the legislature starting this week, we want a plan, but the budget is at a very preliminary and premature stage to say too much at this time," said Warren and she added that what she is hearing from Pierre is a one percent across the board raise for teachers.

It also was implied that if capi-

tal outlay was restricted, by action from the legislature, that rural, small schools such as the three in the Clark County area would be significantly adversely affected.

The 2017-2018 school calendar took another step towards formal approval by the school board, but several tweaks were made to the latest option. The calendar is close to finalization and will be approved

School board (continued on page 3)

WEATHER			
Ryan Eggleston - Official Weather Observer			
	HI	LO	PR
Jan. 3	-1	-14	0
Jan. 4	-4	-16	0
Jan. 5	-4	-16	0
Jan. 6	3	-12	tr
Jan. 7	-1	-17	0
Jan. 8	10	-3	0
Jan. 9	20	-2	tr
2017 precipitation to date	.03		
2016 precipitation to date	.tr		

Raymond building listed on National Register of Historic Places



The most prominent building erected during the early twentieth century growth of Raymond was the 1911 Farmers and Citizens State Bank. Currently Bethke's Lodge and before that 'the Legion building',

this structure owned by Wanda and Gene Bethke, shown above, is officially listed on the National Register of Historic Places as of December 6, 2016.

The Raymond Farmers and Citizens State Bank building in Raymond has had many different names over the years. Whether it be: Bethke's Lodge; the 1911 building; the Raymond Community Center or the old Legion building where

many local Raymond-ites gather for coffee in the mornings, this building has finally paid its dues and is now officially on the National Register of Historic Places.

"It was a two year process from when we submitted it," stated Wanda Bethke. Wanda and Gene

Bethke purchased the building in 2013 when the Raymond Legion organization decided to move across the street into an addition to the new Fire Hall. "The gal that did the research for the State Historical Society uncovered even more history on the building than we had," noted



Brad and Laura McGirr of Creative Printing, Huron and Brookings, have purchased Moritz Publishing. "It was a natural fit and we know a lot of people in this area," said Brad as the business will be open daily, Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., in the former Moritz Publishing location.

It is ironic that the McGirr's are standing beside the Heidelberg press at their new shop, as this 100-year-old-plus machine doesn't get a whole lot of use anymore. The irony is that Creative Printing takes pride in being on the cutting edge of desktop publishing technology.

Brad and Laura McGirr have opened Creative Printing in Clark

A new year brings a new face to a legacy business in Clark. Creative Printing of Huron and Brookings has purchased Moritz Publishing effective January 1, 2017. David Moritz retired December 31, 2016 after 45 years in the printing and publishing business. Creative Printing will remain in the Moritz Publishing building and have office hours of 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

"David (Moritz) has been a friend, colleague and customer of Creative Printing for years and as he was discussing retiring it became a natural fit for us," said Brad and Laura McGirr, owners of Creative Printing.

Brad's family has owned Creative Printing since 1989 but the family has been in the printing and publishing business since the 1950s dating back to Leroy and Janice McGirr, Brad's grandparents, who

owned the newspapers in Wessington and Wolsey. Laura, a Willow Lake High School graduate, joined Brad at Creative Printing soon after they purchased the business in 2014 from David and Linda McGirr, Brad's uncle and aunt. Laura brings local knowledge to the Clark location growing up in the area. Brad and Laura have a son Jett a sophomore at Huron High School and Jazz a seventh grader at the Huron Middle School.

Creative Printing will offer an expansive product line in the Clark location. They will not only offer the standard ink on paper products that Moritz did but will also have banners, signs, promotional products (golf balls, pens, cozies, etc.), web design and social media management. "We like to partner with our clients to offer a well designed campaign that combines print and digital aspects and do it under one

roof," said Laura. Creative Printing has 12 full time employees, three of which are graphic artists. "Every segment of our business is important but it is no secret that we pride ourselves on cutting edge design work and utilizing the latest technology to insure our clients get more than they expect," said Brad.

"We are happy to be here and be a part of Clark," said Laura. "We are really looking forward to everyone coming in and saying 'hi' and seeing what we have to offer. The staff at Creative Printing is excited to be a part of the Clark community and we pride ourselves in being active in the communities we are in. We are strong supporters of the Chamber of Commerce, schools, and Economic Development Committees in both Huron and Brookings and look forward to the same in Clark."

Bethke. This building had all five of the qualifications needed to be submitted to the state, (one only needs three to submit). It was okayed through the state, then went on to the National Registry and as of December 6, 2016 it is officially on the National Register of Historic Places.

Still called by many - 'the old Legion building' at 202 Flower Street in Raymond, Bethke's Lodge looks very much so like it did back in its hey day when the Lobitz Store was in operation. Art work by Joan Putman with local volunteer help started in 2001 with the painting of large wood window coverings on the top floor on the east side. Soon to follow, finishing up the bottom windows to resemble the stores of years past, Putman recreated the old windows and Lobitz Store front complete with items for sale in the windows.

Fashion shows of years past and other photos helped in recreating the look of yesteryear for the building. Inside the building on the old Legion side which is the south side, the Bethke's have collected memorabilia from the town's history in several china cabinets and the old safe with its large iron doors is still in one piece, now used for storage. They even have an old check from the bank written to Oscar Forest who is Gene Bethke's grandpa. It was with Oscar Foiles for seven dollars. Oscar Forest was a blacksmith in town at the time.

Bethke continues in the tradition

of working with metal as he constructs solar oven bread pans in the back of the building for the United Methodist Church's missionary projects in helping those in Haiti and the Dominican Republic. The ovens are used in place of burning up timber in their cooking.

Raymond residents currently enjoy morning coffee times Monday through Saturday starting around 8:30 a.m. until late morning. Solving the world's problems or lively games of cribbage are ongoing rituals along with their morning coffee time gathering in the south side of Bethke's Lodge. The north end of the building is used as lodging, especially busy starting with the fall hunting seasons.

The town of Raymond at one time was bigger than the town of Clark with many businesses notes the couple. Movies were often shown on the side of a building on Saturday nights when people came to town for an evening of selling and buying and conversing with the neighbors. A gazebo out front and a little north of the historic building often had the town band performing, too it was said.

History

The building had its start in 1911. Assumed to have been built with locally made bricks on the corner of Flower Street and Ward Street, the large building began as Raymond's Farmers and Citizens State Bank.

Wilhelm C. Uecker purchased the lot from Mathew O'Donnell and was one of the bank's founders. Bank

officers then were Norton Hurlbert, John Stenning, Uecker and Cora Hurlbert.

Family history shows that Uecker was only with the bank for six years due to being voted off the board in 1917, during World War I. He was of German heritage and with America being at war with Germany that was the reasoning. However Uecker continued in a number of business ventures including a general store and undertaking business.

The Raymond Business Association acquired the L-shaped section of the building to the north and west in June of 1911.

One may notice that the south side of the building is a little kitty wampus as it was made on that side to follow the railroad tracks which were not square to the streets. The bricks do not square up on that southwest corner.

Elmer Graves purchased the telephone office part of the building behind the bank portion. Telephone operators - two sisters, lived in the building and ran the phone lines 24/7.

A co-op store was operated on the main floor by Alf Johnson and Agnes Kenneally and then John Se-neck.

The second floor of the building was divided into a series of offices and is almost maze-like to this day with the many rooms having two entrances each. Two bathrooms were evident on the second floor de-

Raymond
(continued on page 3)