



Is the time right to re-do city water/sewer lines?

Every monthly meeting of the Clark City Council it seems as if there are several very newsworthy topics open for discussion. In August, it was whether or not to allow urban chickens, followed by a medical marijuana ordinance.

Chickens have taken time off to put together an enforceable ordinance and medical cannabis held two ordinance first readings, with second readings to be held Tuesday, September 7, (too late for press release this week).

However, the water rates discussion caught the attention of one and all in the room and would have a lasting effect on the community.

Mayor Kerry Kline opened the water/sewer infrastructure conver-

sation by stating that she wants to re-visit the Helms Engineering 100 block project bid.

Kline and city finance officer Alaina Wellnitz then voiced that the timing would be good to get on the state water plan at this time in order to be eligible for COVID-19 grants to improve municipal water/sewer/road infrastructure. These decisions would need to be made by Dec. 31, 2021.

The one caveat in getting on the state water plan is that city water rates would need to increase. Said Wellnitz, "The only way to get a water grant is to increase water rates. Monthly base rates, in Clark, are currently at \$38.00. This, she said would need to increase by \$12 to \$15

monthly, dependent upon the cost of the project, to \$50.00 - \$55.00.

The council then talked about whether getting on the state water plan and applying for grants would be worth raising water rates.

All Clark blocks will be looked at for water/sewer lines and Wellnitz compared Clark water rates to other South Dakota communities as she and Kline asked the council to think about this expensive, long-term infrastructure venture.

Ordinances

Five separate ordinances received first reading status at the September council meeting.

Regarding the two medical marijuana ordinances, a public hearing with a joint meeting of the City of

Clark Planning Commission and City Council was held prior to the first readings.

City attorney Chad Fjelland led discussion of Ordinances #568 and #569.

The titles read: Ordinance #568 - An ordinance to amend Article II, "District Regulations" and "Permit-Use" (HC - Highway Commercial District); Article IV, "Supplemental Regulations"; and Article V, Definitions, adopted by Ordinance 400, as amended, of the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Clark. Ordinance #569 - An Ordinance adding Chapter 8.10 to the revised ordinances of the City of Clark, creating licensing provisions for cannabis establishments.

The council acted yesterday on these two ordinances, approving both.

The \$1,511,414 budget for 2022 was given first reading by the council. Finance officer Wellnitz shared with the council that the street budget takes up a large portion of next year's budget. "Plus, we need to put money into the swimming pool," she said and she is trying to finalize a Walmart grant for pool improvements.

During Wednesday's meeting, lead maintenance employee Darin Altfillisch handed out to the council a sheet showing a swimming pool drop in inches. "Something's got to be leaking. Somewhere there is a problem." A new pool would cost

approximately \$2,000,000.

Altfillisch then talked improvement pool options, but these upgrades would have to be approved this fall, for best winter shut down. "We have time, but we need to make some changes," he said.

The other two first reading ordinances dealt with water meters and late payments.

In other business:

▲ A half hour executive session was held to discuss personnel and contractual matters. No motion followed the closed meeting.

▲ Originally, a conditional use application was to be acted upon, but that was canceled.

City
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Emily Yexley opens Magnolia Massage

Magnolia Massage is now open on US Highway 212, in Clark, where the Cut Hut was located for almost 40 years.

Emily Yexley, owner of Magnolia Massage, moved to Clark three years ago, with husband Baron Yexley. She has four children; Evan 13, Delilah 9, Jonah 2 and Gryffin, one year old this week.

Magnolia Massage got its name from the Sugar Magnolias song from the Grateful Dead band. "I'm a big Grateful Dead fan and that name came to me coming home from Fort Collins, Colo., in June."

She earned her Licensed Massage Therapist certification with 625 hours of education, at Fort Collins, with 200 hours of 'hands on' learning.

Yexley passed her state 'boards' in July, which she termed 'the hardest test she has ever taken'. On July 26, 2021, she became officially licensed as a massage therapist in the state of South Dakota.

A decade ago Yexley started massage school in Sioux Falls, but for several reasons, some out of her control, she never finished.

"After Covid, with everybody cooped up, there wasn't a lot of human contact. As I found there was a need for massage therapy, my passion began to grow, as to getting into the field of creating better mental health and physical health with a healing touch," said Yexley.

Many of Yexley's Clark clients are senior citizens, or leaning heavily



Emily Yexley has opened Magnolia Massage in Clark. Yexley is a Licensed Massage Therapist (LMT).

toward that age bracket, she said. "Everyone likes to keep young and lively and massages go a long way to help with pain in the neck, hips and shoulders. It is great stress relief and 80 percent of all disease is stress related. Massage is a proven way of relieving stress and therefore preventing disease."

Magnolia Massage has various options with the Swedish Massage topping the list. Other massage options include: deep tissue, pregnancy, hot stones (heat), cupping only (circulation to muscles); hot towels and chair massage.

Yexley can be reached at 605-884-6329, or texted at that number or online at www.magnoliamassagesd.com.

She has set hours throughout the week, but massage by appointment only.

As she begins her sixth week she said that she is excited that it is her first full week booked in advance.

In closing, she reiterated that she is very passionate about what she does and is very excited about her educational foundation and skill set in massage therapy. "I'm always looking for suggestions and continuing education."

This fall she will be medically advancing her certification in Las Vegas to help relieve pain.

Data reveal long decline in pheasants and hunting industry

Bart Pfankuch
South Dakota News Watch

Pheasant hunting remains big business in South Dakota, but both the number of birds available to hunt and the hunters who buy licenses to shoot them have both fallen significantly over the past decade.

In terms of license revenues, direct spending and spinoff spending, and the annual fall season makes up a significant portion of the state's overall \$1.3 billion outdoors industry.

In a state report using data from 2016, pheasant hunting accounted for \$287 million in direct spending in the state that year, 60% of that,

or \$175 million, from non-resident hunters.

Over the past three decades, the year 2007 stands out as a peak year for estimated pheasant population, number of licensed hunters and birds harvested, according to GFP data. That year, the estimated pheasant population was 11.9 million. About 2.1 million birds were harvested and more than 180,000 licenses were sold (roughly 103,000 non-resident and 78,000 resident.)

But over the past decade, state data have shown a steady decline in bird populations and licensed hunters, and the state's reputation as the pheasant-hunting capital of America has taken a hit.

In 2010, the state licensed 173,000 hunters who took 1.65 million pheasants from an estimated statewide population of 9.8 million birds.

In 2019, about 111,000 licensed hunters harvested 829,500 birds.

In 2018, the state ended its annual roadside pheasant count that resulted in population estimates; that year, the count showed a population of 7.1 million birds.

The largest and most worrisome decline has been in the number of non-resident hunters, who purchased 38% fewer licenses in 2019 compared with 2010 in a trend state

Pheasants
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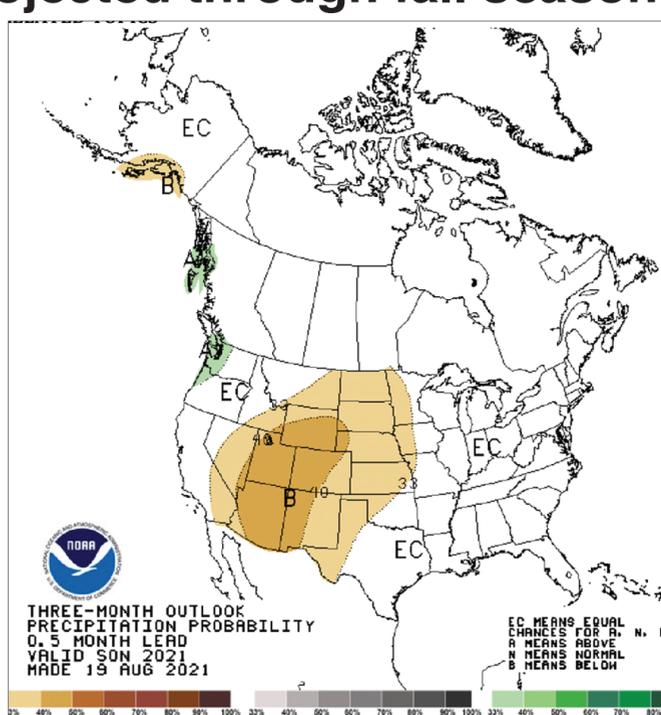
Even with the recent rains, drought conditions projected through fall season

Drought has plagued South Dakota in 2021, and relief from dry conditions seems far off. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Seasonal Climate Outlook, released Aug. 19, 2021, projects drought conditions to continue through the fall season.

The climate outlook for September through November indicates odds leaning towards drier than average conditions. For the same three-month period, chances lean towards warmer than average temperatures also. This combination would lead towards continuing drought conditions, with warm temperatures evaporating surface water or increasing water demand from the plants, crops or the environment.

Drought Conditions

As of Aug. 19, 2021, 94 percent of the state is in some level of drought, according to the U.S. Drought Mon-



Precipitation outlook for September through November 2021. Odds are leaning towards drier than average conditions in the three-month fall season. Source: NOAA Climate Prediction Center.

itor. Impacts are being felt in agriculture (crops and livestock), water supply, recreation and even electricity and energy demand.

It is possible that there will be

some ups and downs in drought severity, as local rains could bring some short-term improvement in

Weather
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Clark High School Coronation was held Tuesday, August 31, at the high school gym. Crowned Queen was Logan Hurlbert, left and Chad Kolden was crowned Marshal. Logan is the daughter of Russ Hurlbert and Sherray Hurlbert. Chad is the son of Gary and Betsy Kolden.

Hurlbert and Kolden reign over Clark High School Homecoming

Homecoming, the 91st annual at Clark High School, has begun. The festivities began Tuesday, August 31 at Coronation with the 2021 royalty being selected. Chad Kolden and Logan Hurlbert were named CHS Homecoming Marshal and Queen, respectively. They were crowned by 2020 Queen Charity Kabwe.

Other royalty candidates included, Chasity Lewis, Teagan Ortberg,

Emmah Mitchell, Hunter Lee, Tyler O'Neill and Gunnar Kvistad.

During Coronation all classes presented virtual skits to the Homecoming theme - 'Cartoons'.

Following Coronation and the burning of the C, the students and those attending Coronation went out into the night to play kickball downtown.

The Cyclone volleyball team will

play Milbank on Thursday, September 9, in Clark. The annual Homecoming football game will feature Clark-Willow Lake taking on the Moberidge-Pollock Tigers, Friday, at 7:00 p.m.

The theme for Homecoming 2021 is 'Cartoons'. The parade will be Friday, Sept. 10 at 1:00 p.m. Pa-

Homecoming
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WEATHER			
Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer			
	HI	LO	PR
Aug. 31.....	83	58	0
Sept. 1.....	83	58	0
Sept. 2.....	77	59	.43
Sept. 3.....	64	60	1.20
Sept. 4.....	-	-	-
Sept. 5.....	75	55	0
Sept. 6.....	78	58	0
2021 precipitation to date	16.75		
2020 precipitation to date	16.73		