

School calendar always is a lively discussion topic

Should the Clark School District begin the school year on August 24 or wait until after Labor Day, beginning Sept. 6? No decisions were made regarding the 2016-2017 school calendar at the January Clark School Board meeting, held Monday. The vote will come next month.

This school calendar discussion is always multi-sided and with three options in front of them, the board asked principal Jerry Hartley to come up with a number four option, one that would start after Labor Day, end the first semester during

January rather than before Christmas and shorten the 12-day Christmas break, with the school ending around the end of May.

The staff had chosen the #3 option, very similar to this year's calendar.

During the half hour calendar discussion, the board and administration talked about three major items, the pluses and minuses of a Labor Day to Memorial Day schedule versus Aug. 24 to May 18; the benefits of ending the first semester with testing before Christmas, even if that means the first semester con-

tains 74 days and the second semester contains 90 days; and exactly what makes up inservice time. The third question was answered with, "inservice is used in a variety of ways, including teacher meetings, teacher workshops, teacher's sharing with other teachers and teachers working with students."

As aforementioned, the Clark School Board will vote on the 2016-2017 school calendar at the February meeting.

School calendar
(continued on page 3)

Year-end totals reflect decline in the accident rate for Clark County

In recent years there has been an average of 100 vehicle accidents per year in Clark County. In 2014 only 79 accidents were reported, and 2015 saw 92 incidents investigated by the Sheriff's Office. Of those, 70 involved a vehicle/animal collision, 17 were single-vehicle and in only five of the accidents were two vehicles involved. These statistics do not include accidents investigated by the Highway Patrol, who are called in to investigate accidents with serious injuries or fatalities.

Accidents by Month in 2015

January	4	July	5
February	6	August	2
March	5	September	9
April	7	October	14
May	4	November	16
June	8	December	12

The Sheriff's Office also served 273 sets of civil papers and 24 criminal warrants, investigated 44 criminal complaints and followed up on 743 calls to 911.

Clark Police Department

The Clark Police Department hired a second full-time officer in February. In July the department was awarded a grant from the drug buy fund in order to acquire an in-car video camera, and has also been able to update their patrol fleet.

The police answered 802 calls for service, an increase of 42 over the 360 received last year. Those calls resulted in 366 cases, of which eight are still open. They investigated 30 accidents, eight more than in 2014. 89 citations were issued, down 29 from last year's 118, and nearly the same number of warnings with 130 compared to 133 in 2014.

In 2015 the police handled 53 animal complaints, 44 requests to assist citizens, followed up on 56 calls to 911, answered 39 ambulance calls and made 267 traffic stops, the total of which accounted for slightly over half of the calls for service to which the department responded.

County offices tally up 2015

According to Clark County Clerk of Courts Tracy Nickels-Aguayo, 44 civil matters, 34 criminal cases, 12 juvenile proceedings and 27 misdemeanor cases were filed in the Clerk's office during the past year. The office also performed nine criminal background checks for the FBI, employers and the armed services.

Additionally, the staff officiated over three marriages and filed seven divorces, as well as overseeing nine reciprocal matters pertaining to child support.

Andrea Helkenn, Clark County Register of Deeds, reported that there were 53 deaths in the county in 2015. There were three in January, one in February, five in March, two during April, nine in May, 10 in June, three in July and in August, seven in September, four each in October and November and two in December.



Wednesday was a big day at the Clark Flower and Gift Shop as South Dakota Secretary of State Shantel Krebs, left, presented Linda Seefeldt and Melanie Smith, front center and right, with the Spirit of Entrepreneurship Award. In the back are Sen. Brock Greenfield and Rep. Lana Greenfield.

Clark Flower and Gift Shop receives Spirit of Entrepreneurship Award

Clark Flower and Gift Shop owners Melanie Smith and Linda Seefeldt received a very nice surprise honor last week. Secretary of State Shantel Krebs presented Smith and Seefeldt with the Spirit of Entrepreneurship Award. The award is intended to spotlight the individuals and businesses who are risking capital, creating jobs, improving their communities and

driving economic growth in South Dakota.

"It is great to see a business like Clark Flower and Gift Shop continue to thrive and be an integral part of the community. They offer a wide variety of quality merchandise and their community pride is second to none. I appreciate the way Melanie and Linda highlight a "Business of the Week" in the Clark community

with a bouquet of flowers," stated Secretary Krebs.

Clark Flower and Gift Shop was started in Clark in September 1977 by Melanie Smith and Linda Seefeldt. For the past 39 years they have owned and operated the flower and gift shop. In 1987 they created the well-known Dakota Care Pack-

Clark Flower Shop
(continued on page 3)



New construction in Clark County is again very visible, especially in the ag sector. Above is the new home of Dominic and Taylor Wieseler, located just north of the city of Clark. At right is the new gymnasium addition to the Willow Lake School.

The Clark County Courier does a construction story at the beginning of each year based upon building permits from the previous year. In the story below the new homes are listed and we attempt to get all the new homes. In an attempt to accomplish that, Clark County building permits taken out a year ago with some of these being finished in 2015 were the houses of Craig Spieker, Doug Seefeldt, Ty Fuller, Jacob Arthur, Mike Helkenn, Steve Wendling, Cory Bratland, Kaley Madsen, Jordan Hallberg, Russ Foster and Chris Sass.

Almost \$12,000,000 spent in 2015 Clark County construction

New construction in Clark County (out of the city limits) for 2015 according to the 70 building permits taken out, totaled \$6,099,100.

In the city of Clark, according to the 30 permits taken out for building within the city limits, the dollar figure totaled \$2,297,820.

In Willow Lake, five building permits were taken out with the lion's share being the Willow Lake School and gym project at \$3,453,000. In total, \$3,518,300 in permits were taken out in 2015 at the city finance office.

One may note that these numbers are approximations, actually being on the low side showing building estimation in construction. Amounts stated are those given by the property owners on the building permits and not the assessed value of the finished project.

In permits taken out by Northern Natural Gas, amounts were not given in their four construction projects at their site south of Crocker.

The Dollar General Store 70 x 130 structure was estimated at \$700,000 to be finished in 2016 located along East U. S. Highway 212 in Clark.

In comparison - county construc-

tion totals for 2014 were \$5,646,500 and if one added the multi-million dollar Oak Tree Wind Farm, those totals rose to \$41,472,900. In the city of Clark totals were \$826,400 for 2014.

The year 2013 was a big year for grain bins with \$4.3 million spent on them alone, a part of the \$6,644,889 total for the county. In 2012, county-wide construction was \$5.2 million and in 2011 the numbers totaled \$3.7 million.

Grain bins, 13 total for 2015 added up to \$609,500 for the year.

Two large hog barns, two cattle barns and a horse barn totaled \$2,580,000 this year with those involved being Windy Plains, Hillcrest, Danny Reppe, Austin Helkenn and Amy Weerts.

Storage buildings including a large seed warehouse for Dakota Vision Ag near Carpenter totaled \$584,000.

New sheds and pole buildings to the tune of \$152,200 are being planned in the county and new shops/machine shops and offices totaled \$461,000.

Five new garages are being built on properties that total \$58,600.

Five new home permits were



taken out by Kyle Peterson, Taylor Wieseler, Silver Lake Colony, Clint Lantgen and Darin and Kimberly Lewis. The estimated total for these five new homes is \$1,155,000.

One home was moved across the county, the former Russ and Julie Foster home to the home site of Alex and Ann Glanzer and one mobile home was moved in by Gary Glanzer.

Home additions were made by Jon Vos, Tony Vandersnick, Sue Bowers, Doug Schoepp and Jim Opsahl, which added up to \$271,000.

One storm shelter was built at the Alliance Farm and a tower added to the Clark Rural Water site. Upgrades were also made to two towers in the county.

City of Clark

Four permits for houses were taken out in the city of Clark. The houses for Terry and Angela O'Neill, Fred and Patty Rosenau, Jason and Kylie Steen and David Clausen totaled \$1,240,000.

Home additions were made by Dan Whalen, Eleanor Temple and Kerry Kline which added up to \$156,000. Four new garages totaled \$99,000 and nine storage



sheds added up to \$84,200.

Six fences were added, two patios were built and one dog kennel which totaled \$12,120.

Two deck additions totaled \$6,500 within city limits.

Willow Lake

The biggest construction building permit for the town in 2015 was estimated at \$3,453,000 by Tellinghuisen Inc. for their part in the new school and gymnasium.

One home addition, one garage, two storage sheds and a gazebo totaled up to \$65,300 in building permits for the city.

WEATHER

Ryan Eggleston - Official
Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR	
Jan. 5	27	16	0	
Jan. 6	31	16	0	
Jan. 7	31	22	tr	
Jan. 8	22	0	0	
Jan. 9	-1	-13	0	
Jan. 10	2	-16	0	
Jan. 11	21	-8	tr	
2016 precipitation to date			tr	
2015 precipitation to date			.12	



The South Dakota Junior Snow Queen Festival was held Saturday, in Aberdeen. Tavie Guzman of Clark was the first runner-up. The Junior Snow Queen court includes, front row, left to right, Princess Abigail Deutsch and Prince Trevor Nipp of Aberdeen. In the back row, left to right are, first runner-up Tavie Guzman of Clark, second runner-up Abigail Grabowska of Ipswich, 2016 South Dakota Junior Snow Queen Morgan Rae Schwartz of Watertown, third runner-up and Miss Congeniality Calico Ducheneaux of Mobridge and fourth runner-up Brittany Greene of Deuel Area.

Guzman is State Junior Snow Queen First Runner-up

The 2016 State Junior Snow Queen Festival was held Saturday, January 9 at the Aberdeen Civic Theatre with 26 freshman girls vying for the title of 2016 Junior Snow Queen.

Miss Clark County Tavie Jo Guzman, daughter of Mario and Jackie Guzman received the first runner-up trophy at the 70th anniversary celebration of the South

Dakota Snow Queen Festival. Morgan Rae Schwartz of Watertown was crowned the 2016 Junior Snow Queen.

Festivities will continue this week before crowning the 2016 Senior Snow Queen. Kathryn Paulson, the daughter of Bruce and Lisa

Guzman
(continued on page 3)