



## With cold and snow the deer herds get quite large

"The harsher the winter, deer start bunching up more and more," said Clark County Conservation Officer Zach Thomsen. "Most deer are concentrating around food sources and good winter cover." Thomsen continued that he seen some 80-plus deer groups in the county.

The deer above were located by Raymond late last week. This is only a portion of this respective herd. "I think the deer herds are healthy this winter," Thomsen noted, "with no real concerns with disease, etc. As the deer herds bunch up they can cause issues. The GFP takes a proactive approach with our programs such as our stack yard program or the panel program. If one has an issue, please contact the Watertown GFP office, or me directly."

Thomsen said that it is quite common with our snow cover to see the deer bunch together. What isn't a common sight is seeing open water at this time in January. As of last Friday, the game warden said he was still seeing some open water. The weekend was downright frigid, with below zero temperatures. "Typically, we should be seeing a couple feet of ice, not open ice."

"Even with this latest cold snap these ice conditions make me nervous for everyone else. We need to make sure the ice is safe. We have had a couple of incidences lately, so everyone needs to be very cautious." On Friday, Thomsen noted that ice thickness was from two inches in one area to 15-16" in another area that he had checked. Plus, snow drifts had created slush pockets on the ice, he reported.

## Clark's after school program is appreciated



Clark area residents who have students in school appreciate having an after school program. Set up for preschool through the 6th grade, students have structured activities, snacks and homework time from 3:15 to 5:00 p.m. It can also be a safe place to go after school but before sports practices or time to catch up on school work due to absences.

Above elementary principal Tracy Stallman, kneeling and para professional Kelsi Bell seated, work on a valentine puppy dog craft with the students.

"It's a safe place to go after school and before their parents get off work to pick them up," noted Clark Elementary principal Tracy Stallman of the Clark school's after school program. "It's a good place to be after school and the parents feel safe knowing where their children are and that they are well taken care of."

"Teachers can also spend this time working with students who need a little extra help or maybe to catch up on school work after absences."

The Clark after school program starts when the school bell rings at the end of the day and goes until 5:00 p.m. Students are first given a snack and then they get to blow off a little steam in their own individual way. "They all have their own way of releasing some energy at the end of the day," continued Stallman.

"We have an area where some of the quiet ones can unwind, relax on some mats, etc. and then there are those who like to continue to be active."

Clark school para professionals take turns doing the activities. Those helping are Annette Boehnke, Kelsi Bell, Emily Repp, Janie

DesLauriers, Elizabeth Zachary, Beth Helkenn and Trisha Marx. Marx sets up the snacks and organizes the crafts, noted the principal.

The choices are many for the student's activities with foam frisbees, basketballs, Nerf balls with paddles, rubber balls, hula hoops, foam blocks and wooden blocks for building or just hanging out in a corner of the gym with your best friends. All students go to the gym for the first part of the after school program for the snacks and initial playtime.

At 3:40 p.m. it's time to put all the playthings away and everyone helps. It was observed that the students were good at making sure everyone does their share in clearing out the gym.

From there, the younger ones go to the staff lunch room which is set up with small tables for them to work on crafts and creative play. The first graders work on their spelling words, while the preschool and kindergarten listen to a story read to them. Then it's craft time together. At 4:30 to 5:00 p.m. is 'center time' where choices include imaginary play or board games together, Legos, drawing, coloring or

**After school**  
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## Annual Chamber meeting is Monday

All Chamber members are urged to attend the Clark Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting on Monday, Jan. 28, in the basement at Dacotah Bank. Enter at the back of the bank.

The meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m., as the past year's events will

be reviewed and plans will be made for 2019.

Five new board members will be introduced. Refreshments will be served. "Chamber support is vital for our business community," said Chamber president Melanie Smith.

## Low wages remain very prevalent in South Dakota's workforce

By Bart Pfankuch  
South Dakota News Watch

Jobs are plentiful in South Dakota, but most positions pay well below the national average and far lower than neighboring states.

In fact, South Dakota has the third-lowest average wage for employed people in the country behind only Arkansas and Mississippi. A News Watch analysis shows that the lowest-paying jobs -- in office support, food service and sales -- dominate the state workforce.

Despite attempts to lure new employers and improve pay for workers, the state has made little progress over the past few decades. After languishing near the bottom for years, the state had the lowest average pay in the nation in 2008 and has moved up only two spots since then.

The News Watch analysis of 2017 wage data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics within the U.S. Department of Labor showed that:

- Roughly 21 percent of employed South Dakota residents, about 87,000 people, make under \$30,000 a year; 41 percent of employed South Dakota residents, about 169,400 people, make under \$35,000 a year, and 71 percent of employed South Dakota residents, about 292,000 people, make under \$40,000 a year.

- Out of the 50 states and the District of Columbia, South Dakota is third lowest in average annual pay at \$40,770, with the national average at \$55,470. The state is also at or near the bottom nationally for average pay in several occupational sectors, including office and administrative support (51st), architecture/engineering (51st), education (50th), production workers (50th), life/physical/social sciences (50th), construction and extraction (50th), arts/design/sports/media (50th), computer and mathematical (49th), community and social services (48th), legal (47th), transportation and materials movement (45th), community and social services (47th) and business and financial operations (44th).

- While doctors, medical specialists, dentists and CEOs are among the highest paid, the support staffs that work for them are among the lowest paid.

The numbers also show that South Dakota's employment base is dominated by low-wage support service and food industry jobs. The three largest employment groups are office administration and support (15.3% of all jobs, \$31,340 av-

erage annual salary), sales/related occupations (11.3% of all jobs, \$37,130 average annual salary) and food preparation/serving (10.2% of all jobs, \$22,610 average annual salary.)

People who don't have technical training or a college degree are at a huge wage disadvantage in South Dakota, according to the federal wage data.

New Republican Gov. Kristi Noem advocated in her first statewide address for the creation of new apprenticeship programs and job-skills training in the state K-12 education system that could increase opportunities and job-readiness of high school graduates.

"South Dakota does a lot of things right, but our economy has fallen behind," Noem wrote to News Watch in an email.

Noem said she will work to remove barriers to business expansion and growth, and also seek ways to improve opportunities for South Dakota workers to better themselves.

"I want to make South Dakota a state where if those wage earners have the drive and desire to earn more, they can," Noem wrote.

The state received some good news in January when the TruShrimp aquaculture company announced it would build a shrimp farm in Madison and eventually create up to 150 jobs, though state officials refuse to release what those jobs may pay.

In the meantime, thousands of South Dakota residents are among the working poor who take on a second job or need assistance to make ends meet, and it appears there is no easy answer to raising salaries in a rapid, meaningful way.

"There's an awful lot of people in South Dakota who are really struggling and working hard to make ends meet," said state Sen. Reynold Nesiba, D-Sioux Falls, who is an

**Low wages**  
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## A January winter wonderland?!?

January, weather-wise, has given us a little bit of everything. The first two days of the month the thermometer got below 0, but after that, through the first half of the month, the temperature was above normal and dry.

This past week, officially over 10" of snow has fallen, in Clark and all week long, except for Tuesday of this week, the temperature dipped below zero.

No school was held in the area on Friday, due to snow and blowing snow and Monday and Tuesday classes started at 10:00 a.m.

The rest of the month is forecast to be more of the same, cold with a couple 'clipper systems' coming through.

This photo was taken last Thursday, about a dozen miles south of town and one will recognize it is the Darin and Jessica Michalski farmstead. The hoarfrost, with different trees, is quite picturesque.

### WEATHER

Robert Cole - Official  
Weather Observer

|                            | HI | LO  | PR   |
|----------------------------|----|-----|------|
| Jan. 15 .....              | 26 | 21  | 0    |
| Jan. 16 .....              | 26 | -4  | 0    |
| Jan. 17 .....              | 14 | -4  | tr   |
| Jan. 18 .....              | 22 | -4  | 0    |
| Jan. 19 .....              | 7  | -15 | .34  |
| Jan. 20 .....              | 2  | -16 | .06  |
| Jan. 21 .....              | 6  | -6  | .01  |
| 2019 precipitation to date |    |     | 0.46 |
| 2018 precipitation to date |    |     | 0.00 |