

Clark County Courier

The voice of Clark County since 1880

Wednesday night to Thursday night high winds and cold temps are forecast



Wednesday, January 5, 2022

Vol. 141, No. 27

www.clarkcountypublishing.com

\$1.00

The hometown newspaper of Merle Peterson, Watertown, SD

S.D. businesses get creative to overcome supply chain crisis

Megan Raposa
South Dakota News Watch

South Dakota businesses are feeling the costly effects of the lingering global supply chain issues brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, but many business operators are finding creative ways to keep shelves stocked, to reduce the impact on customers and to continue making a profit.

Throughout 2021, a trying year on many economic fronts, virtually all industries have been affected at some level by either product shortages, raw material shortages, shipping delays and other ripple effects up and down the supply chain.

The shortage of goods and workers to handle them have created a "perfect storm" of challenges that are hitting small businesses that

make up the bulk of the South Dakota economy especially hard, said Tom Martin, instructor at the Beacom School of Business at the University of South Dakota.

Some of the snags are caused by backlogs at the major shipping ports. Others stem from factory closures amid the coronavirus pandemic, and still more come from the shortage of available workforce. Workers are in short supply across the economic spectrum, including truck drivers to deliver necessary products, employees who make products, and at the retail level where shelves must be stocked, customers checked out at registers and food made and served to restaurant diners.

The challenges retailers face are also compounded by rising com-

modity and fuel prices and competition from large online retailers like Amazon, which are more able

S.D. Businesses
(continued on page 6)

WEATHER

Robert Cole - Official
Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
Dec. 28.....	19	1	0
Dec. 29.....	19	-11	.02
Dec. 30.....	10	-6	0
Dec. 31.....	16	3	0
2021 precipitation to date	24.61		
2020 precipitation to date	18.98		
Jan. 1.....	4	-17	0
Jan. 2.....	2	-16	0
Jan. 3.....	20	-16	0
2022 precipitation to date	0.00		
2021 precipitation to date	0.00		

City property continues unsold

The January meeting of the Clark City Council lasted a little over an hour followed by an executive session that lasted a little under an hour. No motions were necessary following the closed meeting.

During the public portion at City Hall, four agenda items dealt with city - owned land, and the selling of said properties.

The properties include: the corner lot at 416 2nd Ave NW, where the house had been razed within the last month; two lots by sealed bid, one on S. Kansas St., the site of the community gardens, the other on the southwest corner of S. Cloud St and 7th Ave S; and the lots east of Dollar General on US Hwy 212, in Clark.

All bids were eventually rejected unanimously by the council. Earlier in the meeting the council approved an auction for the land sale on the lot at the corner of N. Clinton St. and 2nd Ave NW. This action was

rescinded when all the bids were rejected. The council will determine what their best options are regarding suitable sales, whether it be by advertised auction or connection with a realty company, etc.

Golf course fees were approved for 2022. Membership fees remained the same with cart storage fees increasing. Winter clubhouse rental also increased and no rental break is now given to members.

In other business:

▲ The city is trying to get the skating rink open, weather permitting.

▲ The February council meeting will be Feb. 14, at 5:00 p.m. It was changed from its normal time because of scheduling conflicts.

▲ In his police report city police Chief Jeremy Wellnitz said he is looking for a liaison to help with Spanish communication in times of crisis and confrontation.

▲ Police chief Wellnitz also is

working with the school(s), trying to streamline pickup and delivery, eliminating close encounters.

▲ The city is not changing the salary ordinance, but as minimum wage increases, the city will meet minimum wage requirements.

▲ During public input, resident Mona Marshall requested the city to reduce copier prices from 25¢ per copy.

▲ Dacotah Bank - Clark was approved as the depositor of finances. The Clark County Courier was named as official newspaper.

▲ All council persons were present, including president Andrew Zemlicka, vice president Derrick Dohmann, Brandon Kottke, Shane Hagstrom, Nick Dalton, and Melissa Nesheim. Also present were Mayor Kerry Kline, finance officer Alaina Wellnitz and city attorney Chad Fjelland.

2021 Year in Review Part II, July-December

As we look to the second half of 2021, 'normalcy' was key, as coronavirus was slower with infections, masks weren't as visible and then the delta and omicron variants of COVID-19 has the world and more particularly, the United States, still trying to figure out, as we head into 2022, how do we best maintain education, social, business and recreational life.

As we go to press, Tuesday, January 4, 2022, there are 26 active cases in Clark County. This is the most active cases since the pandemic began, as we 'are not out of the woods' yet and the Center for Disease Control indicates that the country may have to take a backward step or two as numbers increase.

The CDC message remains the same - get vaccinated, with a booster and social distance.

Here's hoping 2022 will be better than 2021, that was definitely better than 2020!!

July

- Most corn is knee-high by the 4th of July.
- As the Courier goes to press, the first issue in July, the entire state is in some type of drought. But, an inch of rain on July 6 'primes the pump'.
- Clark Rotary hosted a 12-team baseball tournament for Legion teams at Dakota Style Field.
- 117 1st Ave E has a new owner, Susan Yexley Jensen. The exterior received a paint makeover.



As of September 1, 2021, Dekker Hardware became Clark Ace Hardware. New owners Alfredo and Shannon Garduno and son Kason are shown with Pam Dekker, owner of Dekker Hardware. Not pictured is Ashley Garduno.

Dekker purchased the hardware store from H.T. Desnoyers, whose family owned the hardware store for over 100 years. This quartet shows off the gold-plated coins, a tradition of Desnoyers, one that received near and far acclaim.



It's a big deal when 12 Legion baseball teams come to Clark for a baseball tournament. The 12 teams included: Mobridge, Wahpeton, N.D., Colton, Faulkton, Salem, LaMoore, N.D., Beresford, Wessington Springs, Clark-Willow Lake, Milbank, Aberdeen and Hankinson/Lidgerwood, N.D.

Each of the three mornings began with opening ceremonies. On Thursday, Mobridge on the first

Clark County 4-H is back to normal, with plans for Achievement Days, including the Chicken Barbecue Dinner.

The 4th of July Parade in Willow Lake was a hot one, with the temperature nearing 100°.

Nothing short of a miracle saved Todd Thesenitz at Indian Springs Lake, southeast of Clark. A bottom bouncer embedded itself in his chest. The surgeon removed it in Sioux Falls and told him there's no way he should still be alive.

The following day, July 8, at Indian Springs, tragedy struck. Christopher Kayl, 49, of Worthing was killed as his boat collided with another and his body was launched into the water. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

The Clark water tower was painted and repaired,

base line, played Wahpeton, on the third base line. Umpires were Matt Clark, plate and Dan Lund, bases. The Clark American Legion Color Guard are Bob Schlueter, Dala Albright, Bruce Brekke and Rob McGraw.

One can tell that the baseball field is one to be proud of, as many community man hours and finances have gone into Dakota Style Field at Dickinson Park.

with the cost being a little under \$100,000.

Travis Ahrens takes over as the new superintendent of Clark Schools. At the July School Board Meeting, Robert Steffen is re-elected president and Todd Fjelland re-elected vice president.

The FCCLA National Convention was held in Nashville, Tenn. At the national convention, the Clark FCCLA Quiz Bowl team received the national championship trophy. Team members include: Amy Splinter, Hudson Fuller, Sarah Weisbrod, Macy Steen and Gunnar Kvistad.

The Emil M. Larson Library celebrated 100 years in operation. Tara Thomas is the librarian and library board members include: Barb Pollock-president, Brenda Jenkins, Mayor Kerry Kline, Chris Jenkins, Patty Rosenau-vice president and Mona Marshall.

Keeping the Clark Municipal Golf Course in top

condition takes a lot of work from many people. A feature was done on everything that needs to be emphasized and addressed by golf course employees. Tammy Rusher is the manager and John Brown, Jr. is the groundskeeper. Other employees include, Emily Dohmann, Laurie Rahm, Jim Woodland, Jeff Seefeldt and city council representative Derrick Dohmann.

Willow Lake Museum is looking for interested volunteers to keep the museum open and going. Vivian Johnsen and Bobette Warkentien are two key Museum and Library Board members.

The proposed Clark School budget for 2021-22 is \$4.1 million plus.

Choose Clark County Executive Director Kristin Vandersnick hosted a housing study for the community. Main speaker was Steve Griesert of Faribault, Minn.

Rodeo-like weather, hot and dry, greeted participants and onlookers at the 20th Annual Clark County 4-H Rodeo.

Clark Traders again punched their ticket to the South Dakota State Amateur Baseball Tournament, in Mitchell.

August

Pam Grensberg served Clark County as an EMT for almost 35 years and announced her retirement in early August.

With August, comes 4-H Achievement days, the 2nd-5th.

The city council re-visits the three-month chicken ordinance process.

The State Class B VFW 16U Baseball Tournament is held at Dakota Style Field, in Clark. Tyndall won the State Championship.

Potato Day, held at Swimming Pool Park for the first time was deemed a huge success by one and all.

The Clark School readies for opening with a 'Return-to-school Plan'. Masks are not mandated, nor is contact tracing, which is left up to the board of health.

Twelve new staff members greeted students on August 18, the first day of school.

High school athletics look for normal year, with no COVID-19 protocols in place for athletes, or fans.

Clark Ace Hardware readies to open in downtown Clark, replacing Dekker Hardware.



It has been well documented that the Clark FCCLA Quiz Bowl Team, consisting of, left to right, Hudson Fuller, Sarah Weisbrod, Amy Splinter, Macy Steen and Gunnar Kvistad, is spectacular. The quiz bowl team accepted the national championship plaque at the FCCLA National Leadership Conference, in Nashville, Tenn.



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.

C.H.S. royalty candidates have been selected, with the homecoming theme of 'Cartoons'. Royalty candidates included: Chad Kolden, Chasity Lewis, Logan Hurlbert, Teagan Ortberg, Emmah Mitchell, Tyler O'Neill, Gunnar Kvistad and Hunter Lee.

Medical Marijuana ordinance discussed at special city meeting.

The Courier tradition of featuring a kindergarten student and parent, was Abigail Bowers and mom, Tiffany.

Bobbi Bohnet, Clark middle school teacher, attended an SDSU workshop on how mRNA vaccines work.

September

Willow Lake School opened its doors the Tuesday after Labor Day with six new staff members.

At Clark High School, Logan Hurlbert is selected Homecoming Queen and Chad Kolden, Marshal. Clark Alumni Association plan several events in conjunction with Homecoming.

As school begins at Clark, several construction projects are finishing up, including cement work, on both sides of the high school.

Jerry Lohr, a 1958 SDSU civil engineering graduate, continues to give back to South Dakota State University. It was announced in early September that Lohr has committed an additional \$5 million to create an endowed dean position in the Jerome J. Lohr College of Engineering.

A late summer storm, the first major storm of the 2021 summer, does major wind damage throughout the county, including the city of Clark.

Emily Yexley opened Magnolia Massage in Clark.

At the September city council meeting, the mayor and city council are considering upgrading the city water sewer pipes and perhaps curb a gutter where feasible.

With an inch and a half rain in early September, drought worries lessen.

An EMT Mock Accident was staged in Willow Lake with the Willow Lake Ambulance.

Ace Hardware has month-long sale changing to 'Ace' branding.

Year in Review
(continued on page 2)



Blast Wi-Fi
POWERED BY ITC

Bring in the New Year with added security.

With all of the new devices from the holiday season comes new security threats. Your life is connected; make sure it's protected with ProtectIQ™. Contact ITC today at 1-800-417-8367 or www.itc-web.com to make sure you're protected.