



A 'changing of the guard' will take place at the Raymond Post Office this week as the post office is going to be open two hours daily. Taking over from Sandra Reitz on the right, will be Wanda Bethke.

## Raymond Post Office will be open two hours daily

Beginning this Saturday, January 10, the Raymond Post Office will be open two hours daily, 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. except Sundays. This change has come about through the United States Postal Service POST Plan review process. This Post Plan has been in the works the last two years and is going into effect this weekend.

Wanda Bethke will be the counter service agent for the two hours the post office is open in Raymond. All post offices in the area are now under the Clark Post Office and Clark Postmaster Diane Peterson.

Because of the Post Plan reduction, long-time Raymond Postmaster Sandy Reitz will be leaving the Post Office. Reitz started at Raymond in October of 1995, as Post Master Relief. In February of 1996 she became the Officer in Charge (OIC), and in June of 1999, Re-

itz officially became the Raymond Postmaster.

Most of her 20-year postal memories are weather related. "Every spring the sidewalk out front floods, so we have to refer to 'back door delivery', if you know what I mean," she said, as residents went to the back of the Raymond Post Office, where it wasn't so flooded.

"I will always remember the blizzard in which Gov. (Bill) Janklow closed down the state, but we were open all three days," she said. Reitz has two grown sons, Lee, who has a daughter, Willow, and Tom and his wife Emily. She also has had two foster children for a year and a half, Oliver and Nevaeh. Sandy also is the guardian of Tae, who turns three today (Wednesday, Jan. 7).

At the Raymond Post Office there are 22 highway contract deliveries, 45 on the rural route and 38 post office boxes.

## More marriages, divorces and deaths in 2014

Statistics in Clark County for marriages, divorces and deaths all showed an increase in numbers from 2013 to 2014.

According to Clark County Deputy Clerk of Courts, there were 14 divorces filed in 2014 compared to only nine in 2013. One may note that these 14 are filed but not adjudicated as of last week, only eight of them are filed and adjudicated or have gone through the system to date.

As it appears that divorces have increased, marriages also increased by three from 19 in 2013 to 22 in 2014. Monthly totals for marriages in 2014 were: none in January, one in February, one in March, none in April, two in May, none in June,

### Marriages (continued on page 3)

WEATHER				
Ryan Eggleston - Official Weather Observer				
	HI	LO	PR	
Dec. 30 .....	-2	-13	0	
Dec. 31 .....	15	-8	0	
2014 precipitation to date	16.17			
2013 precipitation to date	25.81			
Jan. 1 .....	28	15	0	
Jan. 2 .....	27	18	0	
Jan. 3 .....	18	-11	0	
Jan. 4 .....	0	-18	0	
Jan. 5 .....	0	-10	.12	
2015 precipitation to date	.12			
2014 precipitation to date	tr			



## Officials take courthouse oath of office

### Richard Reints elected Chairman of Board of Commissioners

Richard Reints was elected Chairman of the Clark County Board of Commissioners for 2015 during the January 6 meeting. Violet Wicks was elected vice chairman.

Above, Clark County Treasurer Kay Mahlen swears in the newly elected Clark County Constitutional elected officers. Pictured in the front from left to right are Andrea Helkenn, Clark County Register of Deeds and Violet Wicks, Clark County Commissioner District 1. In the back row, left to right, Francis Hass, Clark County Commissioner District

3; Richard Reints, Clark County Commissioner District 5, Rob McGraw, Clark County Sheriff and Christine Tarbox, Clark County Auditor.

Commissioner committee assignments for 2015 were made and these include: Mental Health - Douglas Loomis; Extension - Richard Reints; Weed and Pest - Violet Wicks; Airport - Robert Bjerke, Loomis and Francis Hass; ICAP - Hass; First District - Reints; Glacial Lakes - Bjerke; Legislative Contact - Wicks.

## Proposed retention pond comes with higher rates

'Jake Brakes' probably made the biggest noise at the monthly meeting of the Clark City Council, no pun intended, but what will make everyone 'squeal' is the retention pond cost estimate monthly sewer rate increase.

City finance officer Jackie Luttrell, during her department update, informed the council about the proposed sewer retention pond. This project has been ongoing for several years, with the city being able to take two steps forward, but then having to take three steps back.

Luttrell stated that Greg Maag of First District Planning will be at the February meeting of the Clark City Council and he will talk of the

application process as well as monies available.

What the finance officer said next was that estimated retention pond costs of \$4,900,000 have risen to \$6,925,000. Much of this increase has to do with an underestimation of land valuation, she implied. The bottom line is that the city residents will have to absorb this cost. Currently the sewer rate is \$26.50 monthly.

Going forward, with Luttrell visiting with Maag, no timetable has been established but the monthly sewer rate of \$43.00 was talked about as the bottom line. Luttrell then encouraged the council to think about increasing sewer rates.

### Public Input

As the council passed a dynamic braking ordinance at the December meeting, three individuals, Greg Buechler, Andrew Zemlicka and Dean Palmer visited with the council about this action, during the Public Input portion of the meeting.

Buechler began by asking how the city came by this ordinance and why now? Dynamic Brakes, or Jake Brakes, are a safety feature, the three stated, and Mayor Larry Dreher stated, "It's all about the noise." That was repeated by city policeman Jeremy Wellnitz and he stated that it is a city goal to enforce speeding through town and US Highway 212 does have much truck traffic.

It is key to note that the city or-

dinance does allow Jake Braking to be allowed in emergencies.

### New police officer

After a 15-minute executive session, the council authorized Mayor Dreher to offer employment to a selected candidate for the position of police officer.

### In other business:

▲ The skating rink is now open and Pam Ambrose is the main attendant.

▲ The city bulk water tank costs more to operate than it's worth, said street superintendent Roger Collins during his update and there are many places for alternative water

### Retention Pond (continued on page 3)

## 2014 Year in Review, Part Two, May-December

The last seven months of 2014 highlighted by a fall harvest that was a very pleasant surprise to many area producers and not so great for others, dependent upon Mother Nature's kindness, as to how much and when rain was received. 2014 was fairly dry in South Dakota.

This list of 2014, May-December news story recap is not all-inclusive, but rather a cross section of news highlights in Clark County.



Kids will play! These goats of Lydia Reidburn's looked right at home at the Clark County Fairgrounds during Achievement Days.

✪ Jean Sundvold is inducted into Clark Bowling Hall of Fame and is a 49 year member of the Clark County Courier bowling team.

✪ Lieutenant Colonel David Lewis is promoted to the rank of Colonel in May at Fort Knox, Kentucky. Lewis is a 1987 Clark High School graduate and Northern State University graduate before being commissioned into the Army in 1992.

✪ Clark County had 12 members participate in South Dakota 4-H State Shoot in archery in Fort Pierre.

✪ The late Cody Verdon's orange and black 2008 Harley Davidson Road Glide motorcycle is rebuilt by his father Jeff Verdon and cousin Mike Buerdet and receives People's Choice award at the Aberdeen motorcycle show.

✪ Jessica Michalski and Grace Paulson are the Relay for Life Honorary Chairperson/Survivors for 2014.

✪ Clark hosts the Sioux Valley Commissioners meeting this spring.

✪ Clark National Honor Society members and 4-H students work with the kindergarten class to plant flowers in downtown Clark planters.

✪ Willow Lake School has a town clean-up day with high school students doing spring work throughout the town.

✪ Clark Middle School holds D.A.R.E. graduation.

✪ Late Clark author, Harold Adams, 91, was known for his South Dakota stories/mystery novels.

✪ Emily Serna is hired as the new Willow Lake city finance officer.

✪ Many towns have Memorial Day observances, hon-



The first Clark Wind Farm turbine went through the city of Clark in September enroute to its new home six miles north and a mile and a half west of Clark.

### June

✪ Dickinson Park has been receiving many improvements via the Clark Rotary Club. New bleaches are now in place.

✪ Anthony Bethke and Corey Janisch earn Eagle Scout status as members of Clark Boy Scout Troop #23.

✪ Farmers Union campers learn about agriculture and cooperation at day camp held in Clark.

✪ Willow Lake Alumni banquet number 102 is now in the books.

✪ Cyclones have successful state track and field meet with several placing in many events.

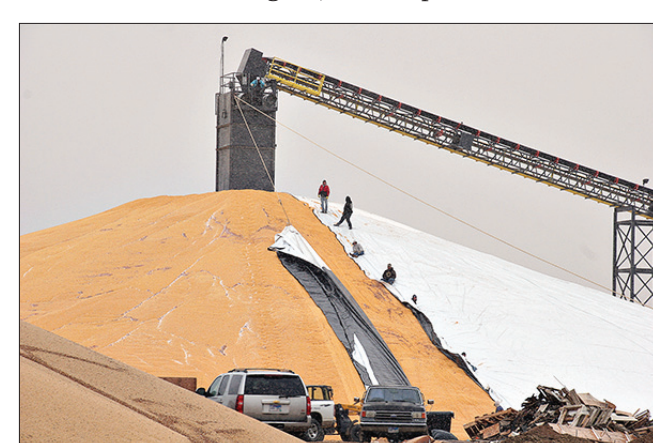
✪ The Willow Lake Lions Memorial Park is near completion on Garfield Street. A lions bench, planters, park benches, picnic tables and a gazebo made by Marlo Froke are new additions.

✪ Letters from the Attic program is given by Phyllis Schrag at the Clark County Heritage Day. Details of

pioneer life from 1878 to 1889 are shared.

✪ Johnson Trucking is honored with lifetime achievement award.

✪ Willow Lake eighth graders tour many east coast sites on their Washington, D.C. trip.



This pile of corn on the ground on the west edge of Clark is pretty impressive. Clark County Farmers Elevator manager Jeff Olson had the entire crew helping to put a tarp over 850,000 bushels of corn due to an impending snow storm.

✪ Class of 2012 graduate Justin Meier tours China's farming community through South Dakota State University agronomy tour. Appreciates beef and clean air

### Year in Review (continued on pages 7 & 8)



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