



Clark School held their annual Veterans Day Program in the high school gym last Thursday starting at 10:00 a.m. Veterans Day was on Saturday.

Above left, Leroy Niehaus waves his flag in the air during the program. Macklin McGraw is standing beside him on the left. In the center photo, guest speaker Clark Police Officer and Army 1st Sgt. Nate Nickeson explains what the reverse American Flag patch symbolizes on the Army Combat Uniform. Right, local veterans Dala Albright, Jerry Olson, Kenny Luvaas and Ken Tarbox enter the gymnasium as the high school concert band plays "Armed Forces Medley."



Photos by Karli Paulson and Carolyn Olson

Local veterans recognized, honored at Clark school's Veterans Day program

By Carolyn Olson

Veterans Day was Saturday, November 11, a day of remembrance to honor all military veterans of the U.S. armed forces. The day was originally known as Armistice Day and Remembrance Day to commemorate the end of World War I. In 1954, the U.S. Congress changed the day to Veterans Day.

Clark elementary, middle school and high school students put on a Veterans Day program on Thursday, November 9 at the Clark High School gym starting at 10:00 a.m.

Coffee and rolls were served from 9:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. for local veterans. Clark Boy Scouts did the Presentation of Colors followed by Clark High School Student Body President Jack Helkenn welcoming everyone in attendance, and then the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The Clark High School concert band played "Armed Forces Medley" during the Parade of Veterans. "The Star Spangled Banner" was performed by the seventh through twelfth grade choir. The Clark High School student council did a presentation of the America White Table Setting, and the high school men's choir sang "Tell My Father."

There was a video representation of local veterans that was put together by Brenda Jenkins. The kindergarten through fifth grade students sang "On Veteran's Day."

First Sergeant Nate Nickeson, also a Clark Police Officer, was the speaker at the Clark Veterans Day Program. During his speech, he explained what the patches on his uniform symbolize, like the reverse American Flag patch. He explained that the patch goes on the right side, or sleeve, of the uniform with the blue star of the flag flying backwards while charging into battle. Nickeson also spoke to the students and audience about how important it is to be a veteran and to recognize veterans. He ended his speech by reiterating how much it means to veterans to be thanked and recognized for their service.

The Clark Boy Scouts Retired the Colors while Elijah Tarbox played "Taps" on his trombone. Helkenn closed the program as the local veterans left the gymnasium.

Med Van Service was discussed at November Clark City Council meeting

By Carolyn Olson

The Clark City Council met in regular session at City Hall on November 6, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. Executive session began at 8:37 p.m. and was declared out at 8:39 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Council members present at the meeting were Nick Dalton, Shane Hagstrom, Andrew Zemlicka, Brandon Kottke and Melissa Nesheim. Derrick Dohmann was absent. Others that attended the meeting were Clark Finance Officer Alaina Wellnitz, Public Works Superintendent Darin Altfillisch, Wade DeSart, Gayle Wookey, Les Solberg, Chris Tarbox, Terry Schlagel, Tony Werdel, Ronnie Clausen, Ralph Hurlburt, Clark County Courier reporter Carolyn Olson, Joshua Layer and Jordan Weigand.

Chris Tarbox, Gayle Wookey, Terry Schlagel and Les Solberg were in attendance at the meeting to speak with the council about the Med Van. They were concerned about the increasing costs. Les Solberg, former mayor of Clark, started the Med Van service in Clark about 20 years with help from friend Bill Janklow, a former South Dakota Governor. "The Med Van is a blessing and an increase of the rate would force people to relocate to meet their medical needs," stated Solberg. Gayle Wookey, operator of Fay Wookley Memorial Assisted Living & Independent Living Center in Clark, asked the council what could be done about the situation. This topic will be discussed further at the December meeting of the Clark City Council.

The City Dump will only be open on Saturdays starting this week until Thanksgiving, weather permitting.

Josh Layer and Jordan Wiegand from Burbach Aquatic did a short presentation about the findings from the pool study that was completed by their company this summer. They went over prices for both repairing the damages and replacement of the swimming pool. No decision was made on this matter as of now.

Tony Werdel and Ronnie Clausen presented the concept plan for developing the city owned property east of town. The council approved the plan. Clark Finance Officer Wellnitz will need to speak with Chad Fjelland to figure out next steps. Werdel mentioned that he is looking into grants to help fund the water and sewer, so that there would be no financial burden on local tax payers. Werdel hopes to get started on this project in the spring of 2024. There will be more discussion on this matter at the December meeting.

Ralph Hurlburt asked the council to consider allowing the Historical Society to use the City Dump free of Charge. The council denied the request.

Wade DeSart from Helms and Associates answered questions from the council regarding the change orders and progress of the drinking water project. Last Tuesday, they closed Commercial Street up to Highway 212 and began milling Wednesday, November 7. "We are getting close to having this project wrapped up soon for the winter," DeSart stated. They plan to have it back open the week of Thanksgiving. There are no longer any temporary water lines.

Water and sewer rates will be up to \$6.10 per every 1,000 gallons. The base rate fee will be implemented on each housing unit and each apartment unit in Clark starting January 2024. There will be a minimum line service fee of \$17.00 charged to each dwelling house, residence, business, building or other place for which sewer and water is maintained.

The next City Council meeting is scheduled for December 4, 2023 and 7:00 p.m.

Deer season opens this weekend



By Carolyn Olson

The East River Rifle Deer Season opens this Saturday, November 18, and runs through Sunday, December 3, 2023.

Approximately 600 'any deer' tags have been issued for Clark County as well as 200 double doe tags.

With harvest coming along quicker this year, deer are out and about. Rut will soon reach its peak, which means bucks can be spotted often.

The weather, as of mid-week, looks to be sunny and temps will be in mid to low 50s. Weather is a big factor when it comes to the opening weekend of the deer season. In recent years, really cold weather, or really windy conditions or even fog have deterred results on the opening weekend.

According to Clark County Conservation Officer Zach Thomsen, some big issues that occur each year during hunting season are: people shooting from motor vehicles, road hunting and hunting on land without permission. These are the most common calls Officer Thomsen receives each year.

If anyone is caught violating, the consequences are loss of hunting privileges for a year and fines from \$300 to \$600 per violation. "If anyone sees any violations call me directly at 605-881-2260, or the tips hot line 1888-overbag," he said. He also wants to remind people to wear appropriate clothing while hunting. "Make sure blaze orange is an acquired clothing when hunting, to help prevent accidents, and as always have a fun, safe hunting season." Hours for hunting are a half hour before sunrise until a half hour after sunset.

Clark County Ambulance crew returning Friday, November 17

By Carolyn Olson

The Clark County Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, November 7 at the Clark County Courthouse at 8:00 a.m. Discussion of raising wages for the Clark County Ambulance crew was a major topic.

That discussion lasted about five hours, after which, the commissioners denied the raise in wages. A special meeting was then held Thursday, November 9, for further discussion on the matter. The lack of compromise resulted in the ambulance employees going off duty, starting Friday, November 10.

While the Clark County Ambulance crew was off-duty, the Clark County Commissioners had to enter into a temporary contract with Watertown Fire Rescue Crew to take over all 911 calls. The biggest concern was the time that it would take for Watertown EMS to get to Clark County, as it is about a 40 minute commute, and a lot can happen in that amount of time.

A second special meeting was held on Monday, November 13. The meeting was open to the public for community comment from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., where the public was encouraged to voice their opinions on the matter. Over 30 members of the community showed up in support of the ambulance crew. The meeting then went into executive session.

According to Chairman of the Board Wallace Knock, two motions were passed after executive session on Monday, November 13. The first approved motion was to appoint Lori King as interim Ambulance Administrator, replacing Randy Angermeier. The second approved motion was to advertise for a full-time Ambulance Administrator. Lori King started Tuesday, November 14. "A schedule has been made, and the three EMS employees have agreed to be put back on the schedule starting Friday, November 17 at 7:00 a.m.," stated Knock.

The pay dispute between the Clark County Ambulance employees and the Clark County Commissioners was first brought to light in January of 2023. The issue was brought to the commissioners in hopes that more employees could be hired, which would also improve the crew's working schedule.

Clark EMT Randy Angermeier stated that "It's hard to get people who apply to finish out the interview process when they hear that the pay is lower than minimum wage." Paramedic, Bob Koistinen made the comment, "Take care of your people, and they'll take care of you. It's unfortunate that it's come to this."

A compromise was finally reached at the special meeting on Monday. The Clark County Ambulance crew's wages were raised \$27.60/day, which is equivalent to \$4,968/year. There is no intention of having any further meetings regarding this subject. The Clark County Ambulance employees will return to work on Friday, November 17 at 7:00 a.m.

Happy Thanksgiving

The Clark County Courier office will be closed on November 23 and 24 in observance of the holiday.

WEATHER			
Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer			
	HI	LO	PR
Nov. 7.....	47	34	0
Nov. 8.....	50	33	0
Nov. 9.....	50	28	0
Nov. 10.....	43	31	0.01
Nov. 11.....	38	26	0
Nov. 12.....	46	26	0
Nov. 13.....	59	29	0
2023 precipitation to date	18.94"		
2022 precipitation to date	17.15"		