



★ TOP of the Week

WEATHER

Robert Cole - Official
Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
Nov. 13	17	7	0
Nov. 14	35	11	0
Nov. 15	53	26	0
Nov. 16	50	22	.01
Nov. 17	26	4	.15
Nov. 18	16	0	0
Nov. 19	32	16	0
2018 precipitation to date	17.92		
2017 precipitation to date	22.86		

School Christmas concerts upcoming

School Christmas concerts have been planned at Clark, Willow Lake and Henry.

At Clark on Thursday, December 6, at 7:00 p.m. grades preschool through fourth grade will present their music concert at the Clark High School gym. A week later, on Thursday, December 13, at 7:00 p.m., fifth grade through 12th grade will have their Christmas music concert in the CHS gym.

At Willow Lake, the kindergarten through fourth grade concert is December 10 and the fifth grade through 12th grade Christmas concert is December 17.

In Henry there will be no concert.

Shop locally this Saturday, Nov. 24

This Saturday, November 24, the Clark Chamber of Commerce will continue to join with other small towns across America in celebrating small-town businesses with its 'Small Business Saturday' promotion.

Chamber co-chairman Melanie Smith commented, "We always want our town to be vibrant, look good and continue with growth. Every dollar that you spend here, stays here, supports the local tax base and helps Clark grow."

For Small Business Saturday on November 24, the Clark Chamber of Commerce will be giving out a \$100 Clark Bucks prize in a drawing for those completing a Small Business Saturday passport at participating Chamber businesses and the Vendor Fair. One must pick up a passport at any participating business or at the Vendor Fair and present them for a stamp at the participating businesses and turn them in for a drawing at the end of the day.

It is not known at this time which Clark stores will be participating. Check on Small Business Saturday.

Winter sports practices started

With December but 10 days away, that means that high school varsity winter sports practices have begun.

The first event annually is the Cyclone Wrestling Booster Club Tournament, held Saturday, Dec. 1, in Clark.

The Cyclone boys and girls basketball open in a doubleheader the following Saturday, Dec. 8, at Clark.

Special Thanksgiving services planned

Tomorrow is Thanksgiving. Many area special Thanksgiving Services have already been held.

In Bradley, St. John's Lutheran will be the host to a joint Thanksgiving service on Wednesday, Thanksgiving Eve at 7:00 p.m. Members of the Crocker Lutheran Church will join them for the service.

At Peace Lutheran a Thanksgiving worship service will be held at 7:30 p.m. on November 21, joining with members of Bethlehem Lutheran in Raymond.

The Willow Lake Evangelical Lutheran Church will have their Thanksgiving worship service at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 21.

Slow opener to the deer season

"I think the cold weather had a lot to do with why we had a rather slow opener," said Clark County Game, Fish & Parks Conservation Officer Zach Thomsen of the East River deer season rifle opener. "Sunday started off chilly, also."

The rifle season, which began last Saturday lasts through Sunday, December 2. "Personally, I didn't see a lot of harvested deer on the opening weekend, so that means that many deer hunters didn't get a deer because of the cold weather and will be out for Thanksgiving break."

The weather for Thanksgiving is to be warmer than last weekend and dry, at least until Saturday into Sunday, Nov. 24 and 25. It is also supposed to turn colder on Sunday, but not before mid-40' temperatures on Thanksgiving into Friday.

"Typically, the rut slows down by Thanksgiving and with corn coming out, or already out, the deer are quite visible when on the move," said Thomsen.

"I encourage hunters to get out of the vehicle and off the road and make sure your blaze orange is visible," he said from a conservation of-

ficer's standpoint. "Last weekend, because it was so cold, everybody was driving around in their pickups looking for deer. It was a pretty slow opening weekend."

On the plus side, no accidents occurred in the area and ticket violations were minimal.

"With warmer weather ahead, pressure will probably heighten through the Thanksgiving break and then slow down," Thomsen stated. "There still is a great opportunity to shoot a trophy deer."

The conversation then turned to ice on area lakes and ponds and Thomsen urges all hunters to be careful with hunting dogs as well. "It appears 95 percent of bodies of water in Clark County have froze up. I've even seen someone out ice fishing. Use extreme caution on the ice/water," said the game warden.

Waterfowl

With the colder weather this month Thomsen noted that most waterfowl has moved out of the area. "The opportunity for ducks

Deer season (continued on page 3)

December climate could be cold or wet, hot or dry

As El Niño develops in the Pacific Ocean, the month ahead proves to be challenging for climate forecasters, said Laura Edwards, SDSU Extension State Climatologist.

"For South Dakota, there is an increased likelihood of wetter than average conditions in the western two-thirds of the state. However, the eastern one-third of South Dakota has equal chances of above, below or near normal precipitation in December," she said, pointing to the December Climate Outlook released November 15, 2018 by the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Climate Prediction Center.

There is some confidence that a wetter pattern may affect the Rocky Mountains and just east of that re-

gion in the month ahead.

The temperature outlook, Edwards said, is less certain for the next several weeks. "A lot of attention has been paid to a developing El Niño in the Pacific Ocean, which has often brought warmer than average temperatures to the Northern Plains in December. This year, however, it is a weak El Niño, and other atmospheric patterns can affect our region as well," she said.

Currently, Edwards said climatologists are looking at the atmospheric pattern over the arctic. "The current pattern favors colder than average temperatures over South Dakota, which is contributing to lower confidence in the December

Climate (continued on page 3)

"The Climbing Tree" in Raymond - is no longer



There's an old boxelder tree in Raymond that has entertained children as their favorite tree to climb for generations. Its time has come to an end however as the old tree had to make way for the new construction in the town this fall as the town receives a new sewer system.

Pictured a few years ago in the area's favorite 'Climbing Tree' are Barb Erickson's grandchildren, left to right, Kera Dubro seated, Erin Schuett, Connor Berry, Keistan Dubro, Cameron Berry, Cooper Berry, Katie Dubro and Emmy Schuett. In front dancing are Teri Schuett and their dog 'Wil-ly'.

Like 'The Giving Tree' in Shel Silverstein's popular book, there's been a tree in Raymond that has entertained generations after generations known as simply - "The Climbing Tree".

The very old boxelder tree with its nearly horizontal limbs going to the south from its base met its demise recently as its location interfered with the town's new sewer pipe construction and new man-holes.

Located on the empty lot near the alley belonging to Edward 'Bud' Holm, the tree is gone but the familiar swing set remains behind the home of Barb Erickson. Barb and

the late Keith Erickson bought the home from the Merrill and Peggy Hurlbert estate about eight years ago and the Hurlbert swing set has been kept up and repaired over the years.

Merrill and Peggy Hurlbert had two children, Lee and Marsha who remember the climbing tree always being there for the town's kids. "It's almost like the tree would say - 'come climb me', recalled Marsha (Hurlbert) Bullis currently of Watertown. "It was like an old friend to so many of us growing up in Raymond. It was right behind our house and with the vacant lot behind it and our swing set underneath it, it was a gathering place



Mateus Dias Pereira is one of the three Cyclones who are originally from Belo Horizonte, Brazil and are attending a high school in Clark County through the Forte Foreign Exchange program. Mateus which is pronounced 'Matthews' is a senior this year attending Willow Lake High School.

'American brothers' Caleb on the left and Cayson on the right are enjoying having Pereira join them at their school and at home as they are finding out more about each other's countries, traditions and pastimes. Pereira is staying with the Trav and Connie Bratland family who farm east of Willow Lake.

Staying with the Trav and Connie Bratland family

Mateus Pereira, of Brazil is a senior at Willow Lake High School

"I want to do everything while here," stated Mateus Pereira of his school year's activities at Willow Lake High School. Pereira is a senior at the school for the 2018-2019 year through the Forte International Exchange organization. Mateus is pronounced 'Matthews' and with the 'Rs' in Brazil pronounced like 'As' with a bit of a roll on the tongue, it's nearly impossible to describe his last name in print.

He is staying with the Trav and Connie Bratland family for the school year. The Bratlands have two sons, Caleb who is a sophomore

and Cayson who is in the sixth grade. Pereira is 17 years old and will be back home in Brazil for his 18th birthday on July 2, 2019.

Pereira comes from Belo Horizonte, a very large city in Brazil where most everyone gets around the city by bus. His father Daniel Pereira Campos owns a car, but doesn't drive it to work, as the bus is more economical. His father works as an electrical engineer.

Mateus has one sister - Sabrina Dias Valente. His mother Mirlene Dias Correa lives in Betim, Brazil and works as a cook at the Brazil-

ian restaurant Raizes.

Pereira has lived with his grandmother Maria Campos since he was one-year old and has attended the same school - Escola sesi hamleto magnavacca, since he was three-years old. He finished half of his senior year before coming here as the school year starts in February in Brazil and goes until December with a small break mid year in July. Their school schedule goes from 7:00 a.m. to 12:25 p.m. daily with a breakfast break at 9:30 to 9:50 a.m.

Pereira (continued on page 3)



Randy Gruenwald talks about all of the improvements made, after the fire last spring, at Dakota Butcher. At the Clark Dakota Butcher store, custom work has been on the increase.

Dakota Butcher is ready for the holiday season

Dakota Butcher owner Randy Gruenwald said that the Dakota Butcher - Clark store has come back "even better, even busier" after the April 4, 2018 fire.

This fire, which started in a meat smoker, caused damage to the east end, or back end of the store.

"We remodeled to make the store more efficient for custom work," Gruenwald stated and he noted that the Clark store can now process 25 to 30 beef a week.

"We've grown our custom work here in Clark and also in the Watertown area," Gruenwald continued. "We're more efficient and our custom work quality is something we take pride in and try very hard at."

Dakota Butcher - Clark employs 14, with eight full time and six part-

time. Ida Foster is the manager and Ed Hickey is the custom work manager.

"We re-did the whole thing," said Gruenwald of remodeling this spring into summer of Dakota Butcher - Clark. "After the fire, we expanded the cooler space, made it bigger so we could hang more beef. Plus, we re-did the bathroom, the kill area and the storage area."

Gruenwald said one thing he was pleased with, was the re-doing of the drainage system, with traps. "Now it doesn't go through the sewer system. The steel is very sturdy."

As we get into the holiday season, Dakota Butcher is ready, willing and able to handle your business, whether it be custom work or as a retail customer.

Climbing tree (continued on page 4)