

**★ TOP
of the Week**

WEATHER

Ryan Eggleston - Official
Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
Nov. 21	22	6	0
Nov. 22	36	11	0
Nov. 23	56	19	0
Nov. 24	51	31	.03
Nov. 25	45	25	0
Nov. 26	53	28	0
Nov. 27	62	36	0
2017 precipitation to date	22.79		
2016 precipitation to date	19.81		

Harvest is wrapping up in the area

As November comes to an end, so does harvest. There may be a field here or there, or a partial field not complete, but for the most part harvest has wrapped up.

In visiting with area producers and elevator people, the yield seems to average in the 150-160 area.

Tony Heer at Clark Farmers Elevator reported that test weight was running 57-58 and "everything is wet", he said when talking moisture. "We are seeing 17.5-18.5 percent moisture," he said. "The harvest this year is probably better than was expected, but not as good as last year. Harvest will be remembered for battling the wet corn and being a little long and drug out."

Winter sports seasons start this week

As the calendar turns from November to December, the high school winter sports schedule begins.

Saturday is the Cyclone Wrestling Booster Club Tournament at the Clark High School gym, beginning at 10:00 a.m. The Northeast Conference Wrestling Tournament will be held in Clark this season, on Thursday, January 25.

The first basketball games are a week later, on Saturday, December 9, with the Sioux Valley doubleheader, at Volga. There are eight doubleheaders (boys and girls together) this year. Four doubleheaders are at opposing team's locations, two are in Willow Lake and two will be held in Clark.

Enjoy these above normal temperatures

On Monday, as this article is being written, it is 61° outside. All week long the high temperature is forecast to be in the mid-40's.

This Saturday, December 2, the average high temperature is 17° and the low is 11°. This year, the high is to be 47° and the low, 33°.

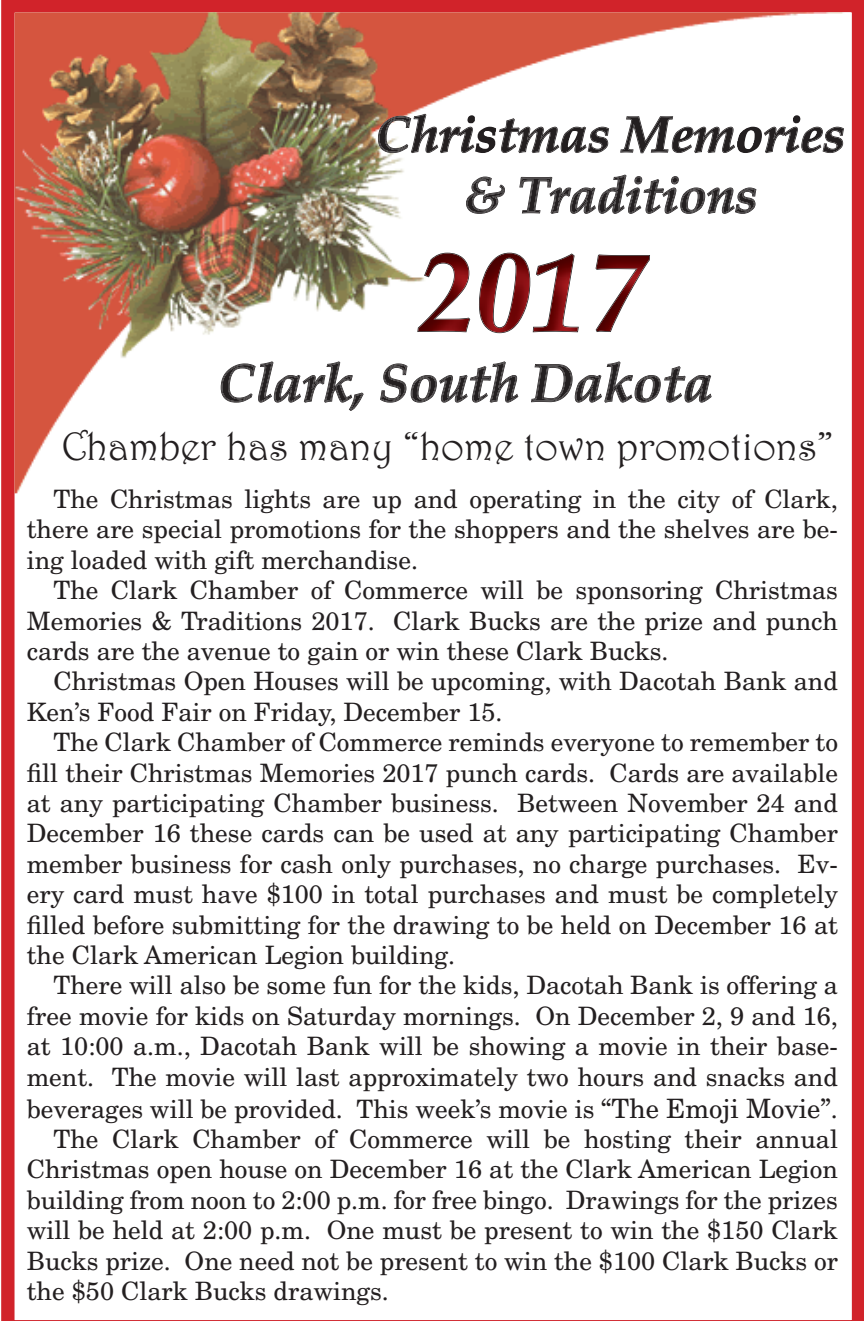
Sooner or later Jack Frost will meet up with Mother Nature in December, in South Dakota. But, for this week at least we have a nice weather reprieve.

Everyone who wanted to decorate in the Christmas spirit has had ample time to do so, but if not, there is the rest of this week to get it done with the 'balmy' late fall temperatures.

Christmas issue will be December 20

Christmas Day is Monday, December 25. The Clark County Courier Christmas issue will be published on Wednesday, December 20.

The New Year issue will be on Wednesday, December 27. The Courier office will be closed on Christmas and New Year's Day.



Christmas Memories & Traditions 2017
Clark, South Dakota

Chamber has many "home town promotions"

The Christmas lights are up and operating in the city of Clark, there are special promotions for the shoppers and the shelves are being loaded with gift merchandise.

The Clark Chamber of Commerce will be sponsoring Christmas Memories & Traditions 2017. Clark Bucks are the prize and punch cards are the avenue to gain or win these Clark Bucks.

Christmas Open Houses will be upcoming, with Dacotah Bank and Ken's Food Fair on Friday, December 15.

The Clark Chamber of Commerce reminds everyone to remember to fill their Christmas Memories 2017 punch cards. Cards are available at any participating Chamber business. Between November 24 and December 16 these cards can be used at any participating Chamber member business for cash only purchases, no charge purchases. Every card must have \$100 in total purchases and must be completely filled before submitting for the drawing to be held on December 16 at the Clark American Legion building.

There will also be some fun for the kids, Dacotah Bank is offering a free movie for kids on Saturday mornings. On December 2, 9 and 16, at 10:00 a.m., Dacotah Bank will be showing a movie in their basement. The movie will last approximately two hours and snacks and beverages will be provided. This week's movie is "The Emoji Movie".

The Clark Chamber of Commerce will be hosting their annual Christmas open house on December 16 at the Clark American Legion building from noon to 2:00 p.m. for free bingo. Drawings for the prizes will be held at 2:00 p.m. One must be present to win the \$150 Clark Bucks prize. One need not be present to win the \$100 Clark Bucks or the \$50 Clark Bucks drawings.



'It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas...'

Getting "city sidewalks, busy sidewalks dressed in holiday style", from atop the bucket of a payload-er may not be for everyone. But fortunately Clark city employee Tyler Silkman was willing to dress the streets in that manner.

While street superintendent Roger Collins manned the payload-er, Silkman decorated. It is an annual tradition to put up the Christmas decorations during Thanksgiving week, weather permitting.

Esparza is a senior foreign exchange student at Willow Lake



Miguel Esparza from Madrid, Spain is enjoying his senior year at the Willow Lake High School. He is the foreign exchange student of Wayne and Sherrie Tellinghuisen. Having played soccer since he was five years old, his kicking expertise was utilized this year on the Cyclones football team.

"I like it here," stated Miguel Esparza who is a new face in the Willow Lake High School senior class.

He is a foreign exchange student who is staying with Wayne and Sherrie Tellinghuisen for the school year. This is their third experience hosting a student as they hosted Tatiana from Brazil in 1994 and Nels from Norway in 1997.

"We're happy to have him in our family," stated Sherrie Tellinghuisen. "We're glad to give him the opportunity to come here and see how our community works."

Miguel pronounced 'Mee gel' with his last name pronounced 'Es par tha' is from a family of five. He has one brother who is 12 named Joaquin and an older 19-year-old sister, Candela.

His older sister's foreign exchange experience in North Carolina three years ago inspired Miguel to do the same. It impressed him on how well her pronunciation had become with the English language, so he hopes to do the same.

In Spain, if one doesn't master English - their jobs are limited. When Esparza returns home in

May - he will take one more important exit exam which will help decided on his future college degree. His first choice is to become a pilot, his second - in finance or business and then public relations.

His senior year here will count as a senior year in Spain. "Not all countries do that," he stated of the foreign exchange program.

Miguel's father's name is also Miguel and he works as a clothing distributor. His mother Maria currently is a stay-at-home mom but previously worked at a television station. His sister is a college student. His little brother plays rugby. His father enjoys running - often three hour runs every other day with friends and the family dalmatian dog - 'Jota' who Miguel misses besides his family and friends.

Miguel has played soccer in clubs since he was young and really enjoys the sport, where he was able to travel with his team. He plans to try basketball this year having never played in Spain. Track and golf are also in his future plans while at WLHS.

"Here you have more free time -

not as much homework at night," stated Esparza on the differences in schools. School is more intense in Spain with more students getting 'F's and repeating grades over. Of Miguel's six closest friends back home, two of them have repeated in school he stated. In Willow Lake, Esparza has gotten all A's and B's.

The lifestyle in Spain differs from here especially in times. Bedtime is midnight or 1:00 a.m. said Esparza with their supper/dinner time being more like nine or 10 at night. Then arising later, more like 8:00 a.m., school starts at 9:00 and goes until 3:30. Their lunch time is more like 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. "What is breakfast?" he asked his first day here he recalled.

A siesta - a rest or nap time is taken in the middle of the day for the younger students and even those in offices. Juniors and seniors do not take siestas stated Esparza who himself doesn't take them at this point. "I maybe relax but do not sleep. It's hard to wake up after one hour."

Esparza
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'Uniquely You', penned by Audrey Rider, powered by faith

"How to plan for tomorrow while maximizing each day as a working mother."

This is the subtitle which describes some of the content in the newly released book *Uniquely You*, written by author Audrey Jo Rider, which is available locally and online.

Rider lives near Henry with her husband Johnny and two daughters Ada and Annie and works out of the Watertown office as an SDSU Extension Volunteer Development Specialist.

Rider was previously Clark County's extension agent in 2010 and 2011, area residents may recall before extension's reorganization process came into play.

"It's always been a goal of mine," admitted Rider who finished her book this September just in time for her speaking engagement at the 'Women Ignited by Faith' event which hosted 300 women at the Sioux Falls event center. She was one of the featured speakers at the event.

"In my job, I've learned different planning strategies which have helped in our family life at home. I love to plan, but I also leave it to

God. He knows our day before we even get up.

"We can plan ahead, but being flexible is important. We have to be prepared for an obstacle and know that it's not life or death if you can't follow your original plan.

"In my public speaking and in the book, I talk a lot about one's faith and being positive," notes Rider.

"It's God's plan - we'll get through it," are words she recalls her grandma Viv (Vivian Goepfert of Pukwana) would always advise. An entire chapter in her book reflects her grandmother's strong faith and advice.

Growing up in a Christian home in the Doland/Frankfort area, the daughter of Ted and Jackie Pazour is a 2000 graduate of Doland High School, where her mother Jackie taught in the school system.

Author and public speaker Melanie Brown who organized the Women Ignited by Faith event, got the ball rolling so to speak on the completion of Rider's dream of writing a book. "You have so many good stories - you should write a book," stated Brown who spoke two years previously at Rider's church Bethlehem Lutheran in Vienna.

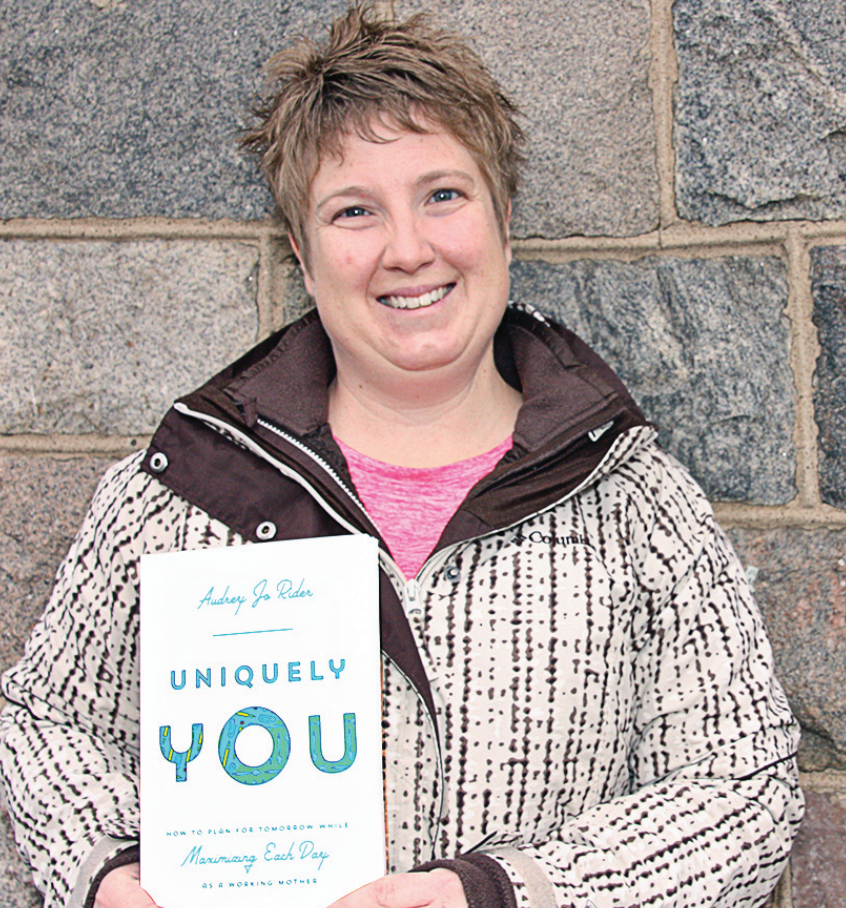
Brown's son Jeremy started the Throne Publishing group four years ago in Sioux Falls and helped Rider along in the process of getting her book published.

He recorded Rider's speeches and ideas for the book and his writer helped things along. Two full day sessions were held - the first outlining and planning the chapters and titles. "That's when the title came about," continued Rider. "There were so many things to decide but everyone is unique it was said, so that's how the title Uniquely You came about."

The next session completed the trade paperback book, which is an easy read for a busy mom stated Rider. The publishing company also assisted her in promoting her book through different venues as well as Rider making sure her book is available locally in Clark, Watertown and Doland.

"It all came together," said the extension educator who attributes her speaking abilities to years in 4-H. "I've always been a social person and the more you do something - the better you become."

Rider
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Audrey Rider recently completed her book - *Uniquely You*. The book was written for working mothers to help balance their lives, plan ahead and keep the faith making the most of each day with their families.