

Clark city council meeting was Monday, November 4

By Carolynn Olson

The Clark City Council meeting was held on Monday, November 4 at 7:00 p.m. in the Ulyot Building in Clark.

Before the meeting was called to order, Mayor Kerry Kline started off with a prayer because Tuesday, November 5 was Election Day. "Whatever the outcome, let us have peace and understanding throughout our country, and bless our City of Clark as we try to make everyone happy," she prayed.

The meeting was then called to order at 7:00 p.m. The council had to amend the agenda due to a change order of payment for Forest Excavating. A motion was made to adopt the change.

There was no public input. All council members were present except Derrick Dohmann.

Finance Officer Flora stated that the city dump will be open Saturdays from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Fees will remain the same. Other department updates were approved.

A decision will be made at a later date regarding the purchase of a new skid loader from Westside Implement. Flora stated that the current skid steer will need to be replaced if they do decide to go forward. There will be another discussion on this matter at the December council meeting.

Catie Noethlich was present to give updates on happenings within Choose Clark County. She shared that the wind turbine project is progressing. The South Dakota School of Mines in Rapid City has seven or eight students who are interested in figuring out different ways wind turbines can be recycled and used for other things within South Dakota. This will help bring more job opportunities and also cut back costs on items such as siding, roofing, etc. Noethlich went on to say that South Dakota State University is also getting on board with the idea.

Another topic, she approached the council with was a project pro-

posal reminder for continuing to fix up Clark's main street (Commercial Street) and getting a buy-in from the council. After a short discussion, the council did agree.

Lastly, Noethlich handed out a flyer for the upcoming Clark Town Forum meeting that will be at the Clark Golf Club on Thursday, November 14 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. She encouraged everyone to attend this meeting. Council member Melissa Nesheim initiated a thank you to Noethlich, with the rest of the council following, thanking her for all of the work she has done and continues to do.

The pool capital outlay resolution was approved for \$10,000 to be put into the pool fund yearly.

The board approved Resolution #873 - Clark County Pre-Disaster Mitigation plan and #589 - 2025 salaries.

Mayor Kline signed budget supplement #590.

The Halme Construction and Forest Excavating payment requests were approved, and Forest's was slightly under budget. October meeting minutes were approved along with financial statements and claims.

The council went into a short executive session at 7:54 p.m. for personnel and contractual reasons. No motions were made after, and at 8:15 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.

The next Clark City Council meeting will be Monday, December 2 at 7:00 p.m.

WEATHER			
Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer			
	HI	LO	PR
October 29	71	42	0
October 30	55	42	0.14
October 31	47	32	0
November 1	44	27	0
November 2	57	25	0.03
November 3	60	37	0.01
November 4	48	46	0.45
2024 precipitation to date	19.28"		
2023 precipitation to date	18.32"		

Veterans Day programs at area schools

Veterans Day is a time for us to pay our respects to those who have served the United States of America. For one day, we stand united in respect for our Veterans. Veterans Day is Monday, November 11, 2024.

This holiday started as a day to reflect upon the heroism of those who died in our country's service and was originally called Armistice Day. It fell on November 11 because that is the anniversary of the signing of the Armistice that ended World War I. However, in 1954, the holiday was changed to "Veterans Day" in order to account for all veterans in all wars.

We celebrate and honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

Veterans Day presents an opportunity for Americans to recognize, honor and thank active and retired military service personnel. Observances have been organized and will be hosted by area schools on Monday, Veterans Day.

Clark
On Monday, November 11, all veterans and spouses will be treated to rolls and coffee starting at 9:00 a.m. in the Clark High School commons area. The program will start in the CHS gym at 10:00 a.m.

The Presentation of Colors by the Clark Boy Scouts will start off the program, followed by the "Pledge of Allegiance" and the Parade of Veterans, while the high school concert band performs "Armed Forces Medley." Clark High School Student Body Presi-

dent Talyn Ortberg will then welcome one and all to the program. "Who Are the Brave" will be sung by the Clark High School Choir.

The 'Fallen Soldier Table,' also known as the 'America White Table Setting,' will be presented by the Clark High School Student Council members, which is a Veterans Day tradition.

A video presentation of all Clark military members and all branches of the U.S. military, made by Brenda Jenkins, will give one and all a great patriotic feeling. Following will be the video presentation of the preschool students answering the question: "What is a Veteran?"

K-5 students will then sing "Veterans We Love You." Amber Nickeson is the guest speaker for the program this year. "Taps" will be played as the Colors are retired by the Clark Boy Scouts. Student Council President Talyn Ortberg will close the Veterans Day ceremony. "The Liberty March: John Phillip Sousa" will be performed as the Parade of Veterans exit.

Willow Lake
On Monday, November 11, Willow Lake School will be presenting the Veterans Day program in the new gym at 10:00 a.m. Rolls and coffee will be served to area Veterans starting at 9:15 a.m. in the new gym concessions area. They are also invited to join the students for school lunch after the program. The public is invited to attend.

Zoe Nichols, student body president, will welcome those attending followed by the Johnnie Fonken American Legion Post

113 Color Guard entrance.

The National Anthem "The Star-Spangled Banner" will be led by the high school choir with audience members also singing. Steven Johnson will give the Invocation and Benediction. "God Bless the USA" will be sung by the high school choir.

The fifth grade class will explain the meaning behind the 13 folds of Old Glory. Kindergarten through third grade students will sing "When the Flag Goes By" and "This Land is Your Land."

The speaker at the Willow Lake Veterans Day program will be Rory McGregor. "Sing, America, Sing" will be sung by the fourth through eighth grade students.

The white table ceremony will be demonstrated by the Class of 2025. Following the Benediction, the Johnnie Fonken American Legion Post 113 will Retire the Colors.

Henry
The Henry School Veterans Day program will be Monday, November 11 at 10:00 a.m. in the school gymnasium. All are welcome to attend.

There will be two guest speakers from the Watertown American Legion.

The choirs will sing this selection of songs:

Pre-K: "March of the Wee Americans"

Kindergarten - First Grade:

"Oh I Love America"

Second - Fifth Grade: "How Do You Tell A Veteran Thank You?"

Sixth - Eighth Grade: "This Flag We Fly"

High School Choir: "Armed Forces: The Pride of America"

The seventh through 12th grade band will perform "The Gettysburg Address."

The narrator for both high school groups will be Amy Campbell.

Florence
On Monday, November 11, Florence School will be presenting the Veterans Day program at 9:00 a.m. in the Falcon gym.

Order of events:

Presentation of the Colors by Chris Fischer and Colin Peterson. The Florence School band will perform the National Anthem "The Star-Spangled Banner" under the direction of Marcy Klitzke.

The Florence Honors Choir will sing "America the Beautiful" also under the direction of Klitzke.

Members of the junior and senior classes will present the Iwo Jima Flag Raising.

Florence School's Veterans Day featured speaker will be SSG Jason Hodne.

The Florence Honors Choir will sing a patriotic selection of songs.

Retirement of the Colors by Chris Fischer and Colin Peterson.

"We owe them a debt of gratitude greater than we can ever pay back."

Greg Whitlock, Sec. of the S. D. Dept. of Veterans Affairs

Raymond fire fought by air, on ground by several locals

By Carolynn Olson

One of the biggest fires on record in the Clark and Spink County areas occurred on Saturday, October 26.

At approximately 3:15 p.m., Clark County Sheriff Tad Heaton was dispatched to a large grass fire located on 412th Avenue near 166th Street along the eastern edge of Spink County.

The National Weather Service Office in Aberdeen had placed much of northeast South Dakota in a 'High to Very High' fire danger status on Wednesday, October 2. This was due to low humidity, high winds, warm temperatures and dry conditions that continued throughout the month of October. On Saturday, October 26, wind speeds were gusting 35-40 miles per hour.

Heaton recalled arriving on the scene of the blaze, "I could see a massive fire spreading north at a high rate of speed." The particular area is an unimproved road system that consists of a dirt path surrounded on both shoulders and ditches by tall grass and vegetation.

Multiple first responder units were on hand assisting with the fire, including Spink County Dispatch, Watertown 911 Center, Spink County Sheriff's Office, Clark County Sheriff's Office, Spink County Emergency Management, Spink County Ambulance and Clark County Ambulance.



Damage from the large grass fire that took place Saturday, October 26. The photo was taken from Jed Hansen's plane.

Photo courtesy of Jed Hansen

Volunteer fire departments from Conde, Doland, Turton, Clark, Wallace, Garden City, Bradley, Raymond, Henry and Florence were on scene as well.

Multiple private citizens were assisting with the fire control, utilizing tractors and discs to smother areas affected on the edge of the fire line. Several local farmers also arrived at the staging area near Hea-

ton's location with water tanks, and Jed Hanson with Hanson Aviation also assisted with flying his plane dumping water on the flames.

The total area lost was three miles long by one-and-a-half miles wide, spreading from 166th Street to 163rd Street and 412th Avenue to 411th Avenue. Roughly 1,500 acres of pasture and crop ground were affected by the fire.

Mike Hink of Raymond was the one who initially called in the blaze. "My brother Kevin and I were putting in fence in the area when we noticed the fire," stated Hink, emphasizing, "I just want to say thank you to all the firefighters; they were on top of it and knew what they were doing."

Rory Troske, who farms in the Turton and Conde areas, and is also a volunteer firefighter in Turton, was on the scene as well. "I've never experienced a fire like this, ever," he said.

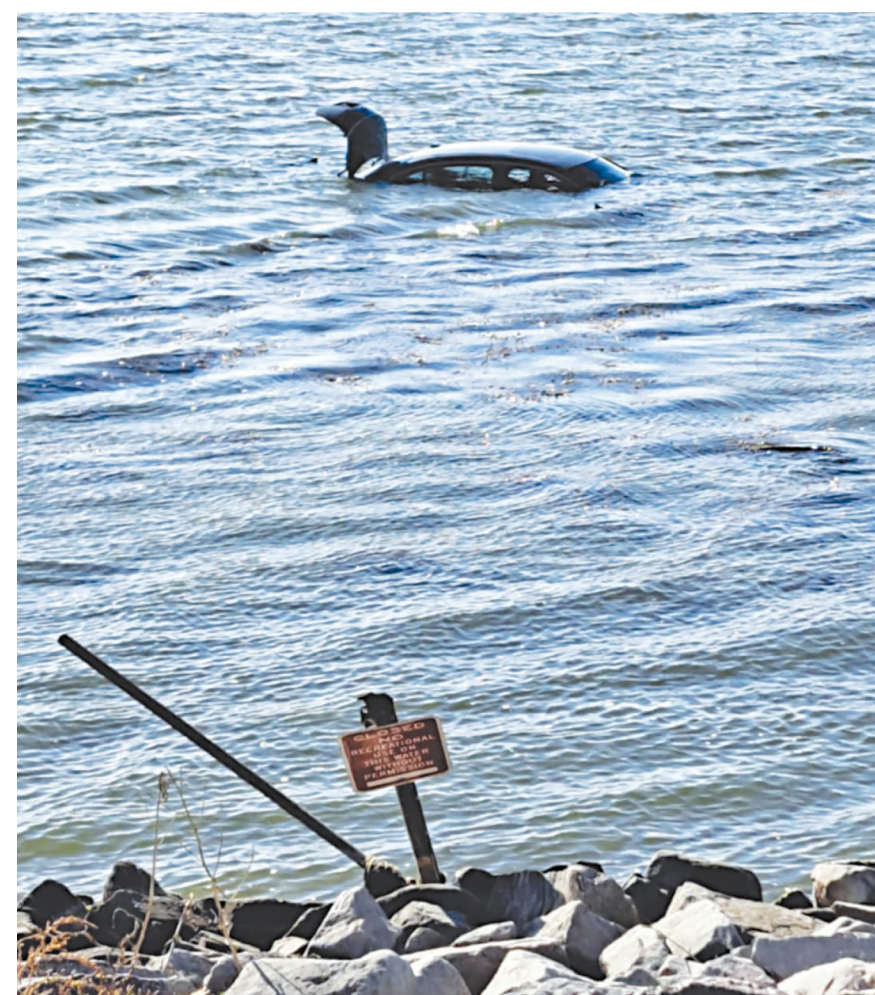
Troske spoke on future conditions, "If we get some good rain this next spring, all will be good. But, the fence that was taken out by the fire will take some time to repair."

Dwight Lyron, another volunteer from the Turton Fire Department stated, "A lot of pastures and fences were wrecked; this was by far the worst grass fire I've seen."

Jed Hansen of Garden City was combining his farm crop, but stopped and headed for the airport as soon as he got word of the fire and how fast it was spreading.

"I heard that Wallace and Florence were also requested, so I figured it must be pretty serious," surmised Hansen. Upon his arrival to the blaze, he was initially unsure what should be top priority. "The

Fire (continued on page 3)



Car takes early morning swim

In the early morning hours of Saturday, November 2, at the T intersection of the Garden City corner (U.S. HWY 212 and 432nd Avenue) a vehicle drove into Dekker Slough. The driver got out safely. The incident was caused by fog. Performance Towing of Watertown removed the car Saturday afternoon. The name of the driver has not been released.

Photo by Kimberly Paulson



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