



## Retailers looking for a good holiday season

With just roughly 14 shopping days left until Christmas, area merchants are thinking sales are on a pace to equal last year, or at least that is the hope this holiday season.

It has been especially cold since Thanksgiving and that could keep shoppers from hitting the roads and just staying home, or shopping at home.

Local retailers are looking for a good holiday season in the remaining days until Christmas and most comments have been favorable and positive concerning buying locally.

Small Town Saturday on the Saturday after Thanksgiving also was a good day for local retailers.

Melanie Smith, Clark Flower & Gift Shop said, "Everyone seems to be getting into the Christmas spirit. Our open house went over very well," and co-owner Linda Seefeldt concurred. South Dakota Care Packages, poinsettias, jewelry and

Christmas decorations are items that stand out as being customer favorites, Smith and Seefeldt added. Melanie closed the conversation with, "Doing what we do where we do it means that we know what people want and we keep a record from year to year."

Pam Dekker, celebrating her

have also been good sellers.

South Dakota businesses should hold their own this Christmas season, with most seeing increases over last year. That mirrors federal trends. The National Retail Federation projects marginal sales gains for November and December, with a 3.9 percent increase over last year's sales.

SDRA Executive Director Shawn Lyons said "solid" is a fitting description for this year's outlook. "That pretty well sums up what most businesses

are telling us," he noted. "Nearly 63% of the businesses responding to our survey said their customers are feeling cautious. So I don't think South Dakota shoppers are planning to spend lavishly, but they will have a good, solid Christmas."

Overall, says Lyon, 39 percent of the retailers who responded to the

**Retailers**

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### Chamber Open House is December 21

The Clark Chamber of Commerce is hosting an open house from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 21 at the American Legion Hall.

Santa will be there from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. and goodies and drawings will take place at that time. Free bingo will be provided.



## Winter sports season is upon us

High school winter athletics are very popular in South Dakota. This past Saturday was the Cyclone Wrestling Booster Club Tournament, the first home athletic event annually.

Above, Cyclone senior Jake Karber at 195 lb., wrestles in his first match in two years, out due to

health reasons. Karber won this weight class for Clark-Willow Lake, who finished fourth in their own tournament. This weekend the wrestlers travel to the Faulkton Invitational.

The Cyclone girls and boys basketball teams open Saturday with a doubleheader at Volga.

## Clark Golf Club votes to dissolve

The Clark Municipal Golf Course in 2014 is one step closer to reality. At a meeting of the Clark Golf Club, Sunday at the clubhouse, it was a unanimous vote by members in attendance to dissolve the Clark Golf Club.

In a nutshell what this means is that the golf course will now be run by the city, beginning January 1, 2014.

Clark Golf Club Board President Paul Herman opened discussion with why the need for city assistance and Clark Mayor Larry Dreher and Clark Finance Officer Jackie Luttrell then explained how the city would assume ownership and

control of the Clark Golf Club. The importance of this recreational entity to the community was voiced by the city, by the current golf club board and those in attendance Sunday and that importance was the primary objective going forward.

"We want the golf club to prosper and I feel that it will," said Mayor Dreher, and the unanimous vote for city control by the 35 members in attendance echoed the mayor's sentiment.

As of January 1, 2014 the Clark Golf Club will become the Clark Municipal Golf Course.

## Clark County antlered deer season has come to an end

The East River antlered deer season is now in the books, as it ended Sunday. "It was a successful antlered deer season," said Game, Fish and Parks regional supervisor Kraig Haase.

"I would consider the harvest an average one," said Haase and he explained that weather played quite a role in 2013. "Opening weekend was quite nice, but last weekend was cold and snowy," leading to just an average harvest in the area.

He continued that deer are quite visible now with the snow and have begun 'herding up', heading toward wintering home ranges of food sources and cover.

The antlerless deer season runs from December 28 through January 5. Only antlerless deer licenses are valid at this time. It should be noted that the Courier, in the story be-

fore the season erroneously reported that 'any deer licenses' would revert to antlerless licenses. This is not the case in 2013! Only antlerless deer licenses are valid Dec.

**Deer season**  
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### WEATHER

Ryan Eggleston - Official Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
Dec. 3	23	14	.30
Dec. 4	16	-3	.07
Dec. 5	-3	-17	0
Dec. 6	-5	-19	0
Dec. 7	0	-20	tr
Dec. 8	8	-13	0
Dec. 9	15	-17	0
2013 precipitation to date	25.56"		
2012 precipitation to date	18.30"		

## Sunday School programs are being held in the area

Many children's Christmas programs in individual churches will be held this holiday season. Christmas celebrations will continue as Christians in the community and around the world recognize the birth of the Savior and the new life he brought to the world.

### Clark services

On Sunday, December 15 at 4:00 p.m., a Mass will be held followed by a CCD student Advent program at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Clark. A soup supper will follow the Advent program.

At St. Paul Lutheran, 9:00 a.m.

on December, the Sunday School program will follow Sunday morning worship which starts at 8:30 a.m.

The Assembly of God will have their church Christmas program with children and adults on Sunday, December 15 at 7:00 p.m.

At the Plymouth Congregational Church (UCC) their children's Sunday School program will be held on the 15th at 9:30 a.m. during the church service.

The Baptist Church of Clark is

**Sunday School**  
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## China Doll will also be known as Miss February

"She's our little calendar girl," says Sarah Finstad affectionately of the Total Image Salon's resident canine China Doll.

China Doll is a pit bull who was rescued by Sarah and her husband Scott last February through the Sioux Empire Pit Rescue organization. The SEPR organization rescues pit bulls and pit bull breeds and mixes. They contacted Finstad to submit a picture of China for their calendar in the fall. Out of 46 entries, 13 were chosen and China was one of the 13 winning the most votes on the organization's Facebook page. She is February's calendar girl on their 2014 calendar.

China sported a ballerina tutu around her neck for the winning photo. "She gets excited when it comes to dressing up," says Sarah, who brings China to work with her daily. "I bring her to work at the salon with me every day. I've checked with the state board and they say it's okay. My customers all know China and will often greet her coming in the door before they say hi to me," laughs Finstad. "Well there's Miss China" you'll hear them say.

**China Doll**  
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China Doll, the pit bull who has become a staple at her owner's beauty shop in Clark, is now 'a cover girl' so to speak. She is 'Miss February' along with others on the Sioux Empire Pit Rescue's Calendar for

2014. China was rescued last February of 2013 by Sarah and Scott Finstad of Bradley so February was decided as her month on the calendar.



## CHS Oral Interp team again wins team excellence award at State Festival

The Clark Interp team competed at the State Festival this past weekend in Watertown. The team brought home a team excellence award with two categories earning superiors.

The first superior was awarded to the readers theatre team of Jill Warkentien, Morgan Nelson, Rawson Yost, Matt Loomis, Mackenzie Huber and Skylar Welk with their production of "Wonder" by R. J. Palacio.

The other superior was awarded to Jen Hurlbert, right photo, in poetry with her performance of "I Could Pee on This and Other Poems by Cats".

Cecilia Streff also competed in oratory along with the duet team of Matt Loomis and Allyson Monson. Sherray Hurlbert is the oral interp coach/advisor.

