



★ TOP of the Week

WEATHER

Ryan Eggleston - Official Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
Dec. 5	21	8	0
Dec. 6	18	-2	0
Dec. 7	24	-3	0
Dec. 8	27	20	0
Dec. 9	29	16	0
Dec. 10	38	23	0
Dec. 11	36	9	tr
2017 precipitation to date	22.95		
2016 precipitation to date	20.96		

CHS Christmas concert is Thursday

Thursday, December 14 is the middle school and high school band and choir concert at Clark School. The concert will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the high school gym. Students in grades five through 12 will be performing.

The concert band will perform *Polar Express*, *All I Want for Christmas is You* and *Crazy Mixed-Up Christmas Concert*.

Jingle Bells and *Up on the Housetop* are the selections that will be played by the fifth grade band.

The sixth grade band will be playing, *Holly Jolly Christmas*, *Christmas March* and *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*.

The High School Choir will sing *Swingin' St. Nick*, *Angels and Shepherds* and *There's Still My Joy*. The seventh and eighth grade students will sing *Angel O'er the Field Were Singing*, *Winterlight* and *Holiday Road*.

Vocal selections from the fifth and six grade students will be *We Sing Gloria*, *Ugly Sweater* and *We Wish You a Merry Christmas*.

Lola Bartels is the band director and Amy Nelson is the vocal director.



Clark Chamber Open House is Saturday

The Clark Chamber of Commerce annual Christmas Open House is this Saturday, 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. Santa will be present.

Don't forget your hometown this Christmas season. The final Dacotah Bank Movie, *Despicable Me 3*, is this Saturday.

The Clark Chamber of Commerce reminds everyone to remember to fill their Christmas Memories 2017 punch cards. Until 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.



Courier Christmas edition next week

Next week's paper will be the *Clark County Courier's* Merry Christmas Greeting edition with Christmas greetings from many area businesses.

As Christmas falls on a Monday this year, as does New Year's, the paper will still come out on Wednesday of each week as usual.



Brown, Hartley submit retirement resignations

The biggest news coming out of the December meeting of the Clark School Board was the resignation of two longtime Clark School educators.

Retirement resignations were accepted from middle school science teacher John Brown and high school principal Jerry Hartley. Brown had been half-time the last three years and superintendent Luanne Warren said that the school will look for a full time science teacher replacement.

Hartley, the high school principal since 2002, said to the board in his retirement resignation, "My career definitely came full circle when I was hired in 2000 by the Clark School Board. I am very appreciative to John Arthur, Dave Warkenhein, Mark McHenry and Wayne Schlager for giving me the opportunity to serve and now retire from the school I have always admired and respected."

Hartley will be working in business sales following his tenure in education and told the board he felt the time was right for him to make this move.

Both resignations will take effect following the school year.

A representative from Jacobson Electric, the firm that has been in charge of fixing electrical problems, stemming from excess water in the boiler room, told the board that this project will be fully completed by the new year, as the functioning part is complete and various incidentals are being finished. The board then approved a change order from Jacobson Electric, noting that the final project approval will be forthcoming at the January 8 school board meeting.

Superintendent Luanne Warren re-capped the Accountability Board results from a week ago. "We are fine and it went well," said Warren. Clark was one of 36 South Dakota schools appearing before the five-member Accountability Board to ensure that teacher compensation rules/policies were followed after the State Legislature increased teacher pay, raising the state sales tax from four percent to 4.5 percent.

Warren said that if this situation ever arises again, that things were

learned this time around, such as re-opening teacher negotiations if need be because of changes in personnel.

In other business:

▲ Warren said that possibly two classes, third grade and kindergarten will need two sections next year.

▲ No executive session was necessary.

▲ The 2018-19 school calendar was discussed with a vote coming at the January meeting. This calendar will have a two-week Christmas break.

▲ It was noted that there is a sports moratorium this year from Saturday, December 22 through Thursday, December 27. No sports practices can be held at this time.

▲ The board meeting began with vocal music teacher Amy Nelson, during the 'Showcase of Program' segment, talking music.

▲ Nelson brought instruments; drums, shaker eggs and a ukulele for primary school demonstrations and she shared the scope and sequence of vocal music, preK-high school, at Clark.

▲ Shannon Huber was (re) appointed as the Legislative Action Network (LAN) representative from Clark School.

▲ During her superintendent's report, Warren talked inservices with the school board. "Our inservices are invaluable," she said and she felt it was very important that the school administration and board communicate in-depth about these inservices and the goals and gains that are very positive, she added.

▲ During his report, Hartley stated that semester tests will be held next Tuesday and Wednesday, prior to the Christmas break.

He also shared that four track meets will be held at Clark this spring including Region IB.

Next year there will be five home wrestling matches.

▲ Board members present included Robert Steffen, Trudi Gaiowski, Shannon Huber and Nathan Luvaas. Todd Fjelland was absent. Also present were superintendent Warren, principal Hartley and business manager Mary Nelson.



A Perfect Winter Day performed by Clark Elementary

The Clark Elementary, grades preschool - fourth grade, presented their Christmas concert on Thursday, at the Clark High School gym.

Titled, *A Perfect Winter Day*, the students performed nine songs, with the third and fourth grade also presenting an African Noel Traditional, with instruments. The program ended with a first-fourth grade finale,

'Snow Day, Snow Day!'

Above, first grader Alayna Arthur surrounded by Alexis Schulz, left and Ashlyn Dalton, right, sing and animate *'A Perfect Winter Day'*.

Amy Nelson is the vocal music instructor at Clark Elementary School.

South Dakota public utilities regulators reject request for Crocker Wind Farm extension

By: Bob Mercer, Watertown Public Opinion Capitol Bureau

The South Dakota Public Utilities Commission turned down the request from Crocker Wind Farm for reconsideration last Tuesday, in Pierre.

Commissioner Chris Nelson received yes votes from commissioner Gary Hanson and chairwoman Kristie Fiegen to reject it again.

The panel halted the Clark County project October 25. One reason: Crocker Wind Farm submitted multiple layouts for where its turbines would be.

Reese Almond, a Sioux Falls lawyer

representing landowners from the county, said state law calls for the application to contain one design.

Brett Koenecke, a Pierre lawyer for the wind project, said Tuesday he wanted the commission to determine how best to proceed.

Koenecke said the company was willing to waive the six-month requirement in state law that the commission must decide whether to permit a wind-power project. The original application came July 25.

Sitting to his right was Betsy En-

Crocker Wind Farm
(continued on page 3)

Christmas services planned

Like the popular hymn, "O Come All Ye Faithful", spend time this Christmas at any one of the following Christmas celebrations in local churches.

Worship services in our area include: In Clark, at the Plymouth Congregational (UCC) Church, a Christmas Eve Candlelight worship will be held at 9:30 a.m. with Pastor Fawn Lamb.

In Raymond, commissioned ruling elders will lead the Christmas Eve Candlelight service with communion at the First Presbyterian Church at 5:30 p.m. on December 24. This will be the only service held on Sunday, the 24th.

At St. Paul Lutheran, their Christmas Eve Candlelight worship service with communion will be

held at 6:00 p.m. The service will be led by Pastor Mindy Ehrke.

At the United Methodist Church in Clark, Pastors Mark and Joy Tracy invite all to the Christmas Eve Candlelight service held on the 24th at 11:00 a.m.

At St. Michael's Church in Clark, a Nativity of the Lord Christmas Vigil Mass will begin at 6:30 p.m. on December 24 led by Father Dan Smith.

In Garden City at the United Methodist Church, Pastor Joy Tracy and members of the congregation will celebrate Christmas with an evening Christmas Eve service to be held at 5:00 p.m. There will be no morning service that day.

Christmas services
(continued on page 12)



This Volvo L60-H payload loader, with four attachments, has been a long time in coming, at the Clark County Airport.

Pictured by the loader are, left to right, Doug Hansen, Jed Hansen and Toby Royer of Sheehan Mack Sales and Equipment, Aberdeen.

Bring on the snow, Clark County Airport can now handle it

Many substantial improvements and upgrades have taken place at the Clark County Airport. This fall a Volvo L60-H loader, with four attachments, was added to complete the maintenance equipment plan.

"I started with the first grant application back in April of 2010," said Doug Hansen. "After that, we needed much persistence, perseverance and patience," as the building for this piece of equipment was erect-

ed, but the payload loader itself didn't arrive from Sheehan Mack Sales and Equipment until recently.

This loader grant was 90 percent federal, five percent state and five percent county monies. "It seemed as if it was on hold forever," said Hansen of the grant, as he felt as if it would never arrive, even after it was approved, by the Clark County Commissioners.

Four attachments are included

with the loader: a bucket; one way blade; power broom and 14' snow pusher (pictured).

Hansen stated that these four attachments are very key. "This machine now allows us to keep the airport runways clear of snow. This is an incredible asset to the airport."

On Wednesday, six local individ-

Airport
(continued on page 12)