



Seasons Greetings, a decorated tree, some happy snowmen and Santa have once again appeared at Flat Iron Park in Clark.

Above city employees Tyler Silkman at left and Eric Brush, kneeling, do what it takes to get the dawn to dusk feature set up for the lights to appear. On at dusk and off at dawn is the plan for the colorful lights at the park along U.S. Highway 212.

With many "ooo's and aahs", the large decorated pine tree in Flat Iron Park was lit up officially for the Christmas season on Saturday evening in Clark. It denoted the end of Small Business Saturday, with many stores starting their holiday shopping season over the weekend. A vendor fair and cocoa crawl were held earlier in town to kick off the holiday shopping season.

The nice weather may fool you, but it is the Christmas season in Clark

The Christmas season has begun in full swing with the first event being last weekend's Small Business Saturday. It included the start of holiday specials at Clark's unique shops and businesses, a vendor fair at the Legion Hall and a cocoa

crawl to the area businesses. The large decorated Christmas tree at Flat Iron Park was lit up that evening.

Starting Friday, December 4, will be the beginning of the Gingerbread House decorating challenge. Kits,

for ages sixth grade and down, may be picked up at Dekker Hardware from 3:00 to 5:30 p.m. on Friday, December 4. Decorating at home will be the plan and the unique houses may be returned to the Clark American Legion Hall on Saturday, De-

cember 12 from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. in order to be judged for the Gingerbread House decorating contest.

For the 'Clark Griswolds' among us who enjoy decorating their homes, start now while the weather's nice for the Clark Griswold

decorating contest. Winners for that will be decided on December 20 with this Clark Chamber promotion.

Chamber president Tammy Rusher added that for their Christmas in Clark event, activities will

be held outside as much as possible.

One may even find Mr. and Mrs. Claus out on the streets that day.

See future issues for details on the Chamber's Christmas in Clark event.



Check out the Mack truck on Smith Street

The warm, dry fall weather has certainly increased the amount of Christmas decorating in the town of Clark. Take a drive around town to see all of the creative and festive decorations in the yards of Clark res-

idents. This vintage pickup in the front yard of John and Brittany Mack is all decked out for the holiday season.

Clark Christmas music concerts are upcoming

The Clark School's Christmas music concerts are upcoming soon. Tomorrow in fact is when the Clark Elementary concert will be held, on December 3 at 7:00 p.m.

Things will be handled differently due to pandemic guidelines. Concert attendance will be limited to parents, siblings and grandparents of the performers. Mask wearing is encouraged along with social distancing.

The middle school/high school Christmas concert performance will be the next Thursday at 7:00 p.m. on December 10.

Both concerts will be limited to immediate family, however both concerts will be live streamed on the Clark School website - clark-schooldistrict.org as well as on ITC Channel 153 for those with local cable television.

The songs that one will be hearing from the elementary students are: Preschool - *Decorate the Tree*; *If I Could Fly Like a Snowflake* and *Jingle Bells*.

Kindergarten - *We Will Jingle and Better Bundle Up*. First grade - *Nice, Nice Christmas and That's Not a Puppy*. Second grade - *Feliz Ano Nuevo* and *Up on the Roof*.

Third grade - *O Come All Ye Faithful* and *Up on the Housetop*, Orff arrangement. Fourth grade - *A Christmas to Remember and Deck the Halls*, Orff arrangement.

The middle school/high school concert on December 10 will have the fifth grade choir singing *Snow and Linus and Lucy*. The sixth grade choir will sing *Ode to Joy* and *Sleigh Ride*. The junior high choir will perform *Adeste Fidelis* and *Holiday Road*.

Clark's high school choir will finish the evening with singing *No Room, No Room* and *While the Snow Lay Sleeping*.

Clark's fifth and sixth grade bands, the 7-12th grade band and

Christmas concerts
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WEATHER			
Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer			
	HI	LO	PR
Nov. 24	40	23	0
Nov. 25	37	23	0
Nov. 26	38	18	0
Nov. 27	49	19	0
Nov. 28	--	--	--
Nov. 29	48	25	0
Nov. 30	31	13	0
2020 precipitation to date	18.21		
2019 precipitation to date	36.95		

SD farmers raise 'heritage turkey's to preserve ancient breeds and meet growing demands

Mark Andersen, South Dakota News Watch

The plump, big-breasted turkeys that appeared on millions of American kitchen tables this Thanksgiving are far different than the smaller, much rarer turkey breeds that once made up the majority of the nation's commercial turkey flock.

Now known as "heritage turkeys," many of the ancient breeds almost went extinct in the late 1990s. But those colorful, playful and spritely bird breeds are on the rebound as a small group of niche farmers in South Dakota and beyond are once again breeding, raising and selling heritage turkeys as part of a

growing farm-to-table agricultural movement.

Breeding stock of heritage turkeys such as Auburn, Buff, Black, Bourbon Red, Narragansett, Royal Palm, Slate, Standard Bronze, and Midget White totaled just 1,335 in 1997, according to a census taken by The Livestock Conservancy of Pittsboro, N.C.

Conservancy program manager Jeannette Beranger said recently that the alarming decrease in birds sparked efforts to preserve heritage breed turkeys, whose total had climbed to 14,000 by 2016, the year the last census was taken. Specific breeds like Black turkeys remain

rare; Chocolate turkeys have vanished.

The concern now is whether a new generation of farmers dedicated to preserving heritage breeds will step forward to replace those now retiring.

"Some of the old timers, the big-scale producers, have bowed out," Beranger said. "We need more people breeding these birds."

Only a handful of South Dakota producers raise heritage breed turkeys to sell. The do it out of a desire for preservation, to tap into a growing base of highly selective consum-

SD farmers
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