

Mitchell is member of S.D. National Guard, out of Watertown, helping in Puerto Rico

Sgt. 1st Class Roger Mitchell of Clark was able to see first hand the devastation in Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria this past October.

Mitchell and four others from the South Dakota National Guard unit out of Watertown were sent to Puerto Rico to provide water distribution to residents in the aftermath of the destruction that Hurricane Maria left.

On the island that is 35 miles wide north to south and 100 miles wide east to west, the hurricane's devastation affected the middle of the island the worst noted Mitchell. "We were in places trucks weren't meant to be at times," noted the guardsman whose position as fuel and water platoon sergeant made him one of the candidates selected to go.

Former Clark resident, Jorges Morales was also a National Guardsman out of Company A - 139th Brigade Support Battalion (BSB) in Watertown who went on this mission.

They were joined by Greg Beynon and Ryan Sanden, guardsmen from

the Sioux Falls area and all are water treatment specialists.

All were activated for 'Operation Hurricane Relief Maria' and served in Puerto Rico from October 8 to November 19, arriving two weeks after the hurricane hit the small country. They traveled to Grand Forks AFB in North Dakota and flew along with their tanker trucks and generators on cargo planes to San Juan International, Puerto Rico.

Two hundred mile per hour winds were estimated with the force of Hurricane Maria. The mountainous areas of the island suffered a lot of landslides making roads impassable. Their electrical system is delivered by poles and it will probably take the longest to get them and their communication systems back up and running stated Mitchell. "So many poles were wrecked and are at the bottom of the mountain or across roads from where they are supposed to be."

Spc. Morales is originally from Ceiba on the east coast of Puerto Rico

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South Dakota National Guardsmen from Company A 139th Brigade Support Battalion (BSB) in Watertown including SFC Roger Mitchell of Clark and Jorges Morales, formerly of Clark, were sent to Puerto Rico in October. They provided clean drinkable water to the residents following the devastation left by Hurricane Maria.

Shown at work in Comerio from left to right are Ryan Sanden, SFC Mitchell, an appreciative unidentified resident and Jorges Morales.



Jacobsens donate atrium flag

A 12' x 15' retractable atrium American flag was donated to the Clark School by the Jerry and Cindy Jacobsen family. A dedication ceremony was held between the varsity basketball games on Friday.

Jacobsen said he got the idea from a high school reunion, in 2009, in his hometown of Lennox. Jacobsen has been in Clark from 1973 until recently and he kept the basketball scorebook at varsity games for 38 years.

"The timing seemed right," he said of the dedication and donation. Family members pictured from left to right are: Taylor Jacobsen, Cindy and Jerry Jacobsen, Brady and Kristen Jacobsen and Jacob, Lexie and Mike Frankman.

Special services are planned for Christmas

In Hebrew the word Jesus means the Lord saves, which he does with unconditional love regardless of whether one is naughty or nice.

Supposedly Santa Claus rejects those who are naughty - they get coal. Not so with Jesus. In fact the naughty ones are the ones who benefit the most with the saving Grace of Jesus.

Celebrate our Savior's birth with

others, singing praises in song and joining in fellowship with others at the church of your choice.

Your choices in this 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 **Christmas services**
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* Clark Elementary kindergarten students



From teddy bears to dirt bikes, unicorns and Hatchimals, the kindergarten class at Clark Elementary School shared with the *Clark County Courier* their wishes and desires from Santa Claus.

The students' teacher is Mrs. Stephanie Hagstrom. Lined up for their photo on 'pajama day' last Thursday were front row, left to right, Gabriel Arrizon Mendez, Easton Huber, Faith Roehrich, Alexis Mora and

The Clark Elementary students shared with the *Courier* their wishes for items that they would like Santa to bring them. The 18 students are in the kindergarten class taught by Mrs. Stephanie Hagstrom. Below are their requests for good ole' Santa Claus.

Dear Santa,

Gabriel Arrizon Mendez, son of Perla Karina Mendez and Angel Arrizon: I'd like a dirt bike with two tires and two ramps and a circle with metal on it and a gasoline tank so I can drive through it - maybe

with fire and a hot wheel race thing and parking lot with 140 cars. You can race with it.

Grace Arthur, daughter of James and Stephanie Arthur: Please bring me a Barbie Dream House and some Barbies to go in it, a Barbie Dream Van for them to ride in and I need some Barbie clothes for my dolls too.

Coop Birrittier, son of Ashley Waples: I would like a car to play with, a remote controller car and action figures, the little ones - super hero guys like Batman and Flash. Flash is my favorite.

Zed Obermeier. In the middle row, left to right, Colton Krogman, Harley Heer, Alayna Sass, Carlos Solano Navarro, Coop Birrittier, Ben Hansen and Grace Arthur.

In the back row, left to right, Grant Nelson, Kooper Wookey, Jackson Schmidt, Jemma Enboden, Isabelle Minnick - wearing her birthday crown as it was her birthday that day and Treivyn McRae Reitz.

Jemma Enboden, daughter of Katie Patenode and Tyrone Enboden: Could you please bring me a big doll and a big Dream House - that's what my brother calls it. A Bible and a God toy to play with and I'm asking to get my brother a Captain Underpants figure guy and book - for Jerome - cause I don't want you to forget him.

Ben Hansen, son of Kelly Hansen and Jeff Hansen: I'd like you to bring me a dirt bike and a four

Clark kindergarten
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Dear Santa ...

* Willow Lake Elementary kindergarten students



Outside of the beautifully decorated Willow Lake Post Office, Tracy Bratland Bruns is shown with her kindergarten class who walked over last Thursday morning to personally put their letters to Santa in the special mailbox outside.

With letters in hand are in the back row, left to right:

Continuing a tradition in the *Clark County Courier*, we asked some kindergarten students what they wanted from Santa this year.

Having just written their letters to Santa and mailing them together at the post office last Thursday, we had the students elaborate so Santa has a few more choices. The following are their answers.

Dear Santa,

Gracie Larson, daughter of Derick and Patti Larson: I would like some slime to play with - I like purple, a new Baby Alive doll - they chew up playdough and then it comes out the other end. Two new Barbies and a fake horse for them

and a fake house like a dream house and a fake car like for the Barbies.

Jacey Beld, daughter of Dale and Jolene Beld: Please bring me an American Girl doll maybe, my mom is getting me and my two sisters some stuff so that's what I need from you, is an American Girl.

Sena Gjerde, daughter of Roy and Sara Gjerde: You could bring me rubber bands to play with in pretty colors, a baby doll and beads to make a necklace or bracelets and that's it.

Colton Koenig, son of Jeremy and Emily Koenig: I'd like a payload on a tractor and the forks for a tractor. I already have a skidsteer and a tractor in the house but I'd

like another skid steer. I like the kit kat skidsteers.

Ella Harding, daughter of Leland III and Cassandra Harding: Please bring a Barbie Dream House for my Barbies - that's all that I put on my other list. A kids sewing machine, maybe an American Girl doll and lots of Hatchimals - I have one already.

Bridgette Hervi, daughter of David and Peggy Hervi: First I'd like an American Girl doll, a playhouse for my doll, a kitchen set for me and my doll so we can play making dinner or supper and toys to go

WL kindergarten
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