

## Discussion of renting school facilities to private parties highlights school board meeting

Any time the agenda is fairly 'vanilla', it's the superintendent's role to spice up the meeting. It was an innocent request that helped do that at the December meeting of the Clark School Board of Education.

A request was made by a private citizen to rent gym facilities. The discussion of whether or not to allow private parties to rent school facilities lasted almost an hour.

As superintendent Luanne Warren began this discussion she was very quick to tell the board, "The alcohol thing does concern me and is a major red flag."

Because wedding receptions, like what this request was for, is synonymous with alcohol for most wedding receptions, former boards had always ended the conversation, as it went against state law.

Superintendent Warren said that she had called the school's attorney and asked him how other schools and communities handle this question.

Warren then queried, "do we want to open this can of worms?"

The board at this time feels that space can be rented, but no alcohol. The vote was unanimous.

Discussion then turned to what, if any, big group areas are available for the community and its members.

As communities get smaller and 'party' rooms on sites are needed for various activities, "what are the options?" was asked.

Warren said that a way around

the alcohol question would be to have a community group, such as Jaycees, Chamber of Commerce or Business and Professional groups that could go through the back door so to speak and qualify for 'community purposes' and bring about a 'community center'.

As the city of Clark is pursuing a clubhouse at the golf course at this time, the school board and administration thought it important to sit down with Mayor Larry Dreher and maybe see if a collaborative effort could bring about consensus and a facility for the community functions.

The field house is a possibility it was noted that perhaps could be used for community purposes.

### In other business:

▲ An hour and a half executive session was held for the purpose of personnel discussion. No action afterward was necessary.

▲ Board member Amy Sass was chosen as the Legislative Action Network representative for the Clark School District.

▲ In the superintendent report, Warren visited with the school board about various methods to get patrons to get lunch accounts paid up.

All board members were present, including Robert Steffen, Todd Fjelland, Amy Sass, Trudi Gaikowski and Shannon Huber, along with superintendent Warren, principal Hartley and business manager Mary Nelson.



## Third grade carolers perform Christmas favorites

The third grade class from Clark Elementary School, under the musical direction of Stacy Andersen-Mjoun performed their favorites from the recent Christmas holiday concert, complete with several Santa hats at Dacotah Bank's open house on Thursday in Clark.

The songs and actions that went with them were very entertaining for

the crowd that assembled. The songs "Grumpy" and "Snowmageddon" seemed to be their favorites with a few extra actions by this high energy group - the third grade class of Cindy Wientjes.

Shown above are left to right, Valley Roebke, Randy Robles Torres, Zachary Ambrose, Blake Lenzen, Waylan Olson and Parker Schmidt.

## Environmental science class learns the effects of open trash burning



The Clark High School environmental science class recently conducted a 'trash burning survey'. The class wanted to interact with the community about open burning and wanted to determine the amount of public knowledge on this subject and ultimately bring more knowledge to the subject.

Three members of the class and instructor Liz Wookey, left, look over the survey results. Next to Mrs. Wookey is Raegan Florey, then Marcie Foster and Josh Weisbrod is on the right. The survey found that there are many health effects to humans that are exposed to open waste burning.

The Clark High School environmental science class took on an important task this fall with the goal being community interaction. The topic was burning trash and the class is using this survey to help educate the public, as not everything that goes up in smoke - should.

This topic is a very appropriate topic, as climate change is at the top of the federal priorities list, as far as bringing about change and as one can tell from this survey, change will be needed in order to bring about desired results.

The class recently tallied the results of this survey they conducted, starting last fall with a questionnaire being handed out at the Clark Homecoming football game and to local businesses. The survey was held to find out public participation in the act of openly burning garbage or trash. The class also wanted to inform residents on the harmful effects and toxins released when burning openly.

"This survey was conducted in order to determine the amount of public knowledge on this subject," according to senior Marcie Foster,

a member of the class. "Class research illustrates that people are unaware of these negative effects."

One hundred and six surveys were returned and out of those surveys 63 said yes when asked if they burn. Those 63 were asked what materials they burn (and 42% of the answers were toxic materials).

"Our goals were to find out what was being burned, how many were actually burning, how much the public knew about the harmful chemicals released and if they were aware of the regulations regarding trash burning," said the environmental science teacher, Mrs. Liz Wookey. "The students did the research and analyzed the results to find out how educated the public is in being aware of the toxins that can be released while burning different substances and if they are aware of the regulations."

According to Foster's report on this subject, the class feels that county residents should be informed on the cycle of contamina-

Science  
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## Christmas services planned for tomorrow and Friday

Worship services in the area for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day include: In Clark, at the Plymouth Congregational (UCC) Church, a Christmas Eve Candlelight worship will be held at 7:00 p.m. with Pastor Fawn Lamb.

In Raymond, Pastor Donna Nickels will lead the Christmas Eve Candlelight service with communion at the First Presbyterian Church at 5:30 p.m.

At Bethlehem Lutheran in Raymond, Pastor Randy Bader will lead the Christmas Eve service at 5:00 p.m. at Peace. On December 25 at Bethlehem, the Word and Song service will be held at 9:00 a.m.

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 3:00 p.m.

At St. Michael's Church in Clark, a Christmas Eve Mass will be held at 5:00 p.m. with Father John Short.

In Garden City, Pastors Mark and Joy Tracy will be hosting a 5:00

p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight worship service.

In Carpenter, the United Methodist Church will have their Christmas Eve Candlelight service and Sunday School program at 6:30 p.m.

The Congregational Church in Willow Lake will hold their Christmas Eve service of Candles and Carols at 6:30 p.m. with Pastor Rosanne Anderson. The United Presbyterian Church in Willow Lake will be joining them.

Pastor Randy Bader invites members to the Willow Lake Evangelical Lutheran Church for their Christmas Eve children's service at 6:30 p.m.

At Grace Lutheran Church, Pastor Keith Garness will lead the Christmas Eve worship at 6:00 p.m. Pastor Keith Garness will officiate at the Good Hope Christmas Eve worship, held at 4:30 p.m.

In Bryant, at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Father Richard Baumberger will officiate at a 9:00 a.m. Christmas Day Mass on December 25.

Also in Bryant at Our Redeem-

Christmas services  
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## United Methodist Church hosts Community Christmas Concert

With all pews filled, those in attendance were treated to wondrous songs of the season, 'The Community Christmas Concert' hosted by the United Methodist Church in Clark.

Above, the Methodist Alleluia Bell Choir presented "O Holy Night" accompanied by Steve Logan on keyboard. Bell choir members in-

clude, in the front row, left to right, Joie Steffen, Pat Seefeldt, Carol Warkenthien, Helen Olson, Gayle Wookey and Annette Helkenn. In the back row, left to right, Karen Arthur, Kimberly Paulson, Wanda Bethke, Emily Mason and Janet Hallberg. Not pictured, Robin Brown.

## Warmth expected to loiter through the winter season

A near-record strong El Nino has brought warmer than average temperatures to South Dakota throughout December. According to the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Dec. 17, 2015 Climate Outlook, the trend is forecast to continue until spring 2016, said Laura Edwards, SDSU Extension Climate Field Specialist.

"Several records have already been tied or broken this month, with high minimum temperatures across the region," Edwards said.

Statewide approximately 59 new daily records were set between December 9 and 13, 2015. "On December 10 alone, 35 new records were set for high minimum temperatures all across the state, from Pactola Dam to Sisseton," Edwards said.

She added that three stations tied their all-time minimum tem-

perature for all Decembers on record: Vermilion with 49 degrees on Dec. 8; Roscoe with 35 on Dec. 9; and Selby with 36 on Dec. 9.

Warmth  
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### WEATHER

Ryan Eggleston - Official  
Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
Dec. 15	27	24	.16
Dec. 16	25	14	0
Dec. 17	25	7	tr
Dec. 18	13	-1	0
Dec. 19	33	5	0
Dec. 20	24	14	0
Dec. 21	17	13	0
2015 precipitation to date	22.25"		
2014 precipitation to date	16.08"		