



If one didn't have a White Christmas, there certainly will be a White New Year's. Starting Friday night and lasting into Monday morning, a winter snow storm and blizzard conditions at times, blanketed the county and northeast South Dakota.



The picture above left shows the pogonip frost that was seen last week prior to the storm. The picture at right shows the Forest Excavating snow crew cleaning out the driveway so the press car can get the editor to work to help begin the process of getting the paper finished Monday morning to get in mailboxes by Tuesday.

Post Christmas storm shuts down the area

For the second consecutive year, a nasty winter storm, right after Christmas, has shut down the area. A year ago, an Alberta Clipper slammed the Midwest two days after Christmas, dropping 10 inches of snow and causing the temperature to go from 30° to below zero. Sundogs were quite evident and were featured on the December 31

Clark County Courier front page a year ago. This year's storm was different. Little was known about this arctic event activity until just before Christmas and one didn't know for sure when it would arrive and it turned into a three-day event, dropping over a foot of snow in most areas of Clark County.

The temperature didn't dip, but it is to get colder tonight and then stay moderate for early January, all times above zero and even around freezing on January 2. The low on New Year's Eve is to be around 14°. This storm which covered the entire upper Midwest, was very slow-moving, causing travel plans to be delayed and very little move-

ment about, whether it be in town or in the country. Athletic activities over the weekend were canceled as were most church services. As this post-Christmas winter storm hit, it was fortunate that schools were not in session due to the Christmas break. According to Robert Cole's Na-

tional Weather Service report, for the week we received, in Clark, 1.13 inches of moisture and officially over a foot of snow. For the year, Clark has received 38.27 inches of moisture, arguably record setting. "Everybody adhered to the warnings and the warnings were out early," said Clark County Sheriff Rob McGraw, as he noted that things

were pretty quiet in his office. "Those that needed to get somewhere either left early or waited out the storm," said McGraw. Roads are getting cleared out, but remain icy and snow covered, so cross your fingers that you will be reading this before 2020.

The Clark County Year in Review - Part I

2019 was one for the record books in Clark County, literally and figuratively.

Also, in most years there is one news story that stands out as the county's top news story.

This year there were three top stories, depending upon your perspective:

- 1) A very wet year, more than 15" above normal, with a wet spring, a wet summer and a wet harvest. Some corn is still in the field - not much, but some.
- 2) Seventy-seven wind turbines went up and are now operating in the Geronimo Energy's Crocker Wind Farm.



The newly elected Clark County Constitutional elected officers took their oath of office, being sworn in by Clark County Treasurer Kay Mahlen, right.

Pictured left to right are: Robert McGraw, Clark County Sheriff; Richard Reints, Clark County Commissioner District 5; Francis Hass, Clark County Commissioner District 3; Wally Knock, Clark County Commissioner District 1; Andrea Helkenn, Clark County Register of Deeds and Chris Tarbox, Clark County Auditor.

3) The Clark-Willow Lake Cyclones boys basketball team are the S.D. Class B Champions!

This week the *Clark County Courier* is pleased to publish the 2019 Year in Review - the first six months. This is a non-inclusive review, to stimulate your memory of what has been going on the last year.

January

- 2019 started with six newly elected constitutional officers taking their oath of office. These individuals include: Rob McGraw, sheriff; Richard Reints, commissioner District 5; Francis Hass, commissioner District 3; Wally Knock, commissioner District 1; Andrea Helkenn, register of deeds and Chris Tarbox, auditor.
- Clark County Development Corporation (CCDC), is initiated to help develop economic growth. Greg Janisch is the CCDC chairman.
- Aiden Bowers takes a Make-A-Wish trip to Sea World in Orlando, Fla. He, along with parents Justin and Tiffany and sisters Marlee and Abigail, spent a week in Florida.
- The Greater Clark Area Foundation celebrates the \$1,000,000 gift from late area farmer Ortwin Buss.
- Courthouse elevator is updated with new cables and new equipment running it.
- An estimated \$16,774,778 was spent in 2018 Clark County construction: 94 permits, 65 in county, 25 in



Caleb Orris goes in the record books as the only Clark-Willow Lake undefeated, consecutive state champion.

The Cyclones finished 11th as a team. Landon Werdel finished fourth at 170 and Gage Burke was sixth at 152.

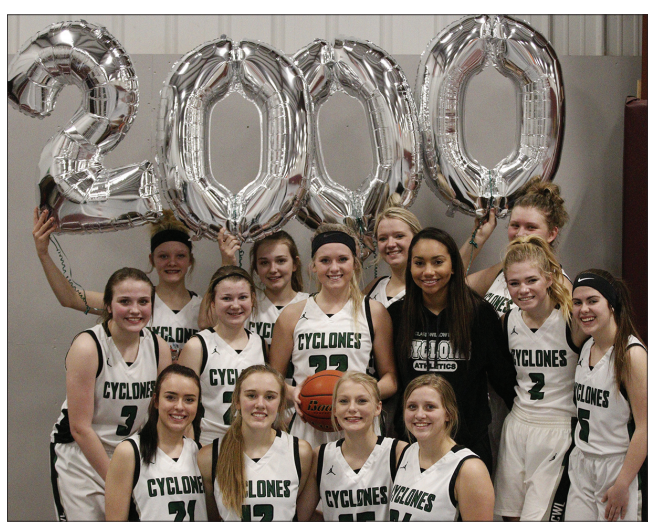
- Clark and four in Willow Lake.
- A long, cold, snowy winter has deer herding up, with 80+ in some Clark County deer herds.
- Clark High School one-act play is 'Oz' and the play cast earned fourth place honors in Region 2B competition.
- Cyclone wrestlers place third at 'Little B', in Parkston, with Caleb Orris and Landon Werdel winning individual championships.
- A polar vortex brings brutally cold weather for the last half of January.
- Annick Blanket, from Holland, is the foreign exchange student staying with Kerry Kline.
- The Thorp Wolves are honored at the Cyclones vs. Groton boys basketball game.



The Clark-Willow Lake Cyclones have three 2019 South Dakota Class B Basketball All Staters. A Sanford Pentagon All State Banquet was held in Sioux Falls.

At the end of January, the Cyclone boys and girls, collectively, are 21-4 on the season, as the boys suffer their first loss to eventual Class A State champion Tea.

- February
- Marlin Fjelland and Jim Holm of Clark Rural Water Systems, each won a state honor. Fjelland was presented with the S.D. "Spirit of Rural Water Award". Holm was named Rural Water System Specialist of the Year.
- Rod and Mary Hurlbut of Raymond were honored at the Watertown Farm and Home Show.
- The first two weeks of February, start weather-wise, the way the last two weeks of January ended - brutally cold!
- Superintendent Luanne Warren was unanimously



2,000 points. Most athletes only dream about an accomplishment such as this, but last Friday night against Aberdeen Roncalli, Clark-Willow Lake Cyclone senior Janae Kolden (in the center) made two first quarter free throws, giving her 2,000 points for her illustrious varsity career.

- re-hired as superintendent at Clark School.
- The Logan Arrows are the last Clark County school to be honored by the Cyclones. Thirteen former Arrows were in attendance at the Clark-Willow Lake vs. Redfield-Doland boys basketball game.
- Girls basketball standout Janae Kolden scored her 2,000th point against Aberdeen Roncalli.
- The Clark County Development Corporation is looking for an executive director.
- Seven Clark-Willow Lake wrestlers qualified for state at the region meet, in Redfield. Brandon Gehrke, Landon Werdel and Caleb Orris all won regional championships; Gage Burke was second and placing third were Gunnar Kvistad, Lucas Kannegieter and Chase Chambers.
- The Willow Lake senior government class toured the State Capitol and met with Gov. Kristi Noem.
- Caleb Orris won the 182 lb. title at the State Tournament. The Cyclones finished 11th as a team. Landon Werdel placed fourth and Gage Burke placed sixth.



It's not a one-handed pump for victory, it's a double-handed fist pump by Clark-Willow Lake coach Jerome Nesheim as the Cyclones are the South Dakota State B Boys Basketball champions!

The Cyclones defeated De Smet 49-41 in the title game, Saturday, in Aberdeen. Surrounding the victorious coach are, left to right, Ryder Juntunen, Aaron Zemlicka, Garett Warken-thien, Kia Moromikawa, coach Nesheim, Inigo Iraola, Mateus Pereira, Cole Brenden and Renner Uecker.

- Cyclone boys basketball wins both the Northeast and Lake Central Conferences, finishing the regular season at 18-2.



Snow removal was going fast and furious after more than two feet of snow, or at least in that neighborhood, fell in Clark County.

Heavy, thick snow, moved by two days of vicious winds, made snow removal a challenge as where all this snow should go.

This photo shows the thick texture of snow, the depth after clearance to the mailboxes and how heavy it clings to the roof of buildings and houses.

March

- Valuations (for non-ag) are up 37 percent in Clark County.
- Jeremy Wellnitz is now the City of Clark police force as Clark policeman Nate Nickeson was deployed