

## Clark Christmas music concerts are upcoming

Clark School Christmas music concerts are upcoming. This Thursday, December 5, is the Elementary Concert, preschool - 4th grade, at 7:00 p.m. at the Clark High School gym.

Songs include: Second grade playing *Carol of the Bells*; first and second grade combined - *Baby Christmas Tree*; first grade - *Santa Claus is on His Way*; third grade - *Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer*; preschool and kindergarten - *Joy to the World*, *Mousie in the Snow*, *Red and Green*, *Snow is Falling Today*; fourth grade - *Orff ensemble Jingle Bells*; third and fourth grade - *Red Bird* and first through fourth grades - *In December*.

The following Thursday, Decem-

ber 12, is the 5th - 12th band and vocal Christmas Concert at 7:00 p.m. at the C.H.S. gym.

The band numbers include: fifth grade band - *Merry Christmas to All and Jingle Bells*; sixth grade band - *Frosty the Snowman*, *Jingle Bones* (trombone feature) and *We Wish You a Merry Christmas* and the concert band - *God Rest Ye Merry Mallets* (mallet feature), *All is Calm* (featuring piano and soloists) and *A Christmas Carol*.

The vocal concert numbers are: 5th & 6th - *Hallelujah: Joy to the World* and *Here Comes the Snow*; 7th & 8th - *Sing Noel*; 7th - 12th - *Mary Did you Know?* and 9th-12th - *On Winter Mountain* and *Veni Veni Emmanuel* (Ero Cras).



Meteorological winter begins December 1, every year and the Thanksgiving weekend, although late this year, had one and all feeling more winter-like than late autumn.

Officially Clark received 5.5" of snow. Reporting stations to the west received over a foot more than Clark, as Redfield and Aberdeen both got socked with a foot and a half of snow, or more.

Usually this time of year city employees are putting up Christmas lights. This year they get to remove snow along with other seasonal duties.

## It could have been worse

### ▲ 5.5" officially of snow

The Thanksgiving weekend snow storm was highly anticipated across the entire nation and as it approached one had thoughts back to the same weekend 14 years ago in 2005. On that weekend the ice kept coming and the result was the worst ice storm ever, causing power to be out for upwards of a week.

In Clark, in 2005, many trees were lost and in the county many electrical poles snapped and pow-

er was out in rural areas for over a week.

This past weekend's winter storm was no where close to the same results, as the area was fortunate not to accumulate as much moisture as points west and southwest.

It did limit travel and the Clark Area Snow Queen Festival was postponed from Saturday night to

**Snow**  
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## Reform of agricultural land taxation could help farmers but shift burden

Nick Lowrey  
*South Dakota News Watch*

As the property tax takes a larger share of their incomes — at a time when many are hurting financially — South Dakota farmers and ranchers are pushing for reform of the state's system of valuing and taxing their lands.

But as a decade-long process of updating the system nears an end, it has become increasingly clear that any reform effort that aids agriculture producers will lead to higher taxes for residential and commercial property owners who will assume a larger burden of paying for education and county services. When legislators overhauled the state's system for assessing the taxable value of farm and ranch land in 2008, the idea was to make the system more fair and ensure tax rates better reflect just how valuable ag land is in a given year. The reform led to sharp increases in ag

land values and property tax bills rose accordingly. But as commodity prices have tumbled in recent years, profits have shrunk and taxes are taking up an increasing portion of farm and ranch incomes. Now, as the number of farm bankruptcies and suicides rates among ag producers continue to rise, many

**Tax reform**  
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WEATHER			
Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer			
	HI	LO	PR
Nov. 26	34	30	0
Nov. 27	32	24	0
Nov. 28	28	23	.01
Nov. 29	32	27	.21
Nov. 30	31	25	1.09
Dec. 1	31	20	.17
Dec. 2	21	7	0
2019 precipitation to date	36.95		
2018 precipitation to date	17.95		

## Saylor Burke is 2020 Snow Queen

### ▲ Avery Miles crowned Junior Snow Queen

Saylor Burke was crowned the 2020 Clark Area Snow Queen at Sunday afternoon's 51st annual Snow Queen Festival. Retiring Junior Snow Queen, Maggie Hovde passed on the crown to this year's winner. Burke will represent the Clark area at the upcoming State Snow Queen Festival in January at Aberdeen.

Burke is the daughter of Ryan and Bobbi Jo Burke.

Avery Miles, daughter of Preston and Jenny Miles was crowned Junior Snow Queen by retiring queen Maggie Hovde. Miles will represent the Clark area at the Junior Snow Queen Festival in January. First runner-up was Karli Sharp, daughter of Joe and Nicole Sharp. The second runner-up was Jada Burke, daughter of JJ and Kelly Burke.

The emcee for the night was Melissa Mudgett and Ryan Claussen was the Mystery Snowman.

Crowned as Little Miss was Rilynne Jordan, daughter of Tash and Ashley Jordan. Little Master was Carter Severson, son of Dave and Beth Severson.

Talent winner was Hannah Heiman who entertained with a ukulele and vocal solo. Sharon Stormo provided piano entertainment at the Snow Queen Festival. Also present at the festivities was Senior Citizen Snow Queen Dorothy Shirk.

Matt Streff and Zach Kuno served as ushers during the program.

The entire program was coordinated by the Clark Area Snow Queen Committee and was sponsored by over 100 area businesses.

Junior Snow Queen Avery Miles, left and Senior Snow Queen Saylor Burke right, are all smiles after being crowned at the 51st annual Clark Area Snow Queen Festival on Sunday.

Miles and Burke will now compete in their respective South Dakota Snow Queen Festivals in January in Aberdeen.



## Foreign exchange students live as brothers at Norvell's

Clark's two foreign exchange students this year are living like brothers in the home of Connie Norvell of Clark.

Having raised three sons of their own in Corpus Christi, Texas, Norvell stated "she missed her boys" and decided this summer that being a host mom was something she wanted to try. Two sons of hers, Dwayne and Daniel are in Texas along with her two grandsons, Landon and Braylon and her son Jamie lives in Watertown. Norvell moved to Clark four years ago after becoming a widow. She is a 1972 Henry H.S. graduate.

Carlos Eduardo Garcia De Oliveira is from Paranavaí, Brazil, a town of about 105,000 people to date. It's a medium sized town he describes that is in the southern part of the country in the state of Paraná.

South Dakota reminds him of his state he says with a lot of farmland and farms in the area. "Here is the American representation of my state," he explained. Except for the weather of course which is colder here. Right now it is summertime in Brazil with December through March being their summer season and June, July and August being their winter season.

"We get snow in the mountains,

**Students**  
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Connie Norvell of Clark once again has a couple of sons in the house. Foreign exchange sons that is and they also have the same name, too. Seated on the left in front of Connie Norvell is Alonzo Garcia Gutierrez from Spain. Carlos is from Brazil and his story is featured below. He is a junior this year at Clark High School.



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