

Clark County Courier

The voice of Clark County since 1880



Daylight savings time begins on Sunday. Don't forget to set all of your clocks one hour ahead on Saturday night.

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The hometown newspaper of Neil Heiden, Eagan, MN.

March meeting of the city council 'comes in like a lion'

▲ ProBuild - Clark to close Friday and to conclude operations by end of April

Several significant 'things' were learned, or discussed, at the March meeting of the Clark City Council.

Mayor Larry Dreher had the closing of ProBuild - Clark on his mind. It was announced and confirmed by phone call that this Friday, March 7, will be the final day that ProBuild - Clark, is open. The corporate office spokesperson said that operations will be concluded by April 30, 2014.

Dreher would like to see a smooth transition of this property to continue to be a local lumberyard.

"I've been on the phone twice with a property management representative, in Seattle, Wash. and there currently is a three-year lease of this property." Dreher then talked of his frustration, as he was looking for a sub lease, but ProBuild will be paying for this property into 2016.

"I felt this individual could care less about our community," said the mayor, and he then spoke about how important it is to buy locally and respect the local business economy.

"I have tried and will continue to address this situation, as a town of this size can support a lumberyard and a local lumberyard is important to the progression of our community. We as a city would like to get a business back in there. The sooner the better."

Freezing pipes

Water/sewer superintendent Darin Altfillisch told the council of the frost problem, causing water pipes to burst. "We had number seven in Clark today," said Altfillisch and said that this is a statewide, mid-west region-wide problem.

"Everybody needs to drip or run water. It's going to get worse before it warms up," he continued and said the only answer is to leave the water on and have a water drip." Altfillisch added that clay soil in this case is probably worse than sandy soil.

The city council then discussed if they (the council) should make adjustments to the water bill, to those who are out of their houses for a pe-

riod of time.

"I don't see how we can," was the council's consensus.

Summer projects

Street superintendent Roger Collins talked of upcoming summer projects. He spoke of the drainage ditch in front of Jeff Seefeldt's residence, the renovation, with the Clark Rotary Club at Dickinson Park and how the county will no longer be assisting the city with chip seal projects.

'The Road Guys', a firm out of Yankton will provide this service and the council then talked what needs to be budgeted to provide this product (s).

Collins also said the dump is planning on opening in early April with hours and rates to stay relatively the same.

In other business:

▲ After a 20-minute executive session, the council approved finance officer Jackie Luttrell's sala-

March meeting
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Lent begins with Ash Wednesday services

This Wednesday (today), March 5, Ash Wednesday begins the Easter Lenten Season with most churches in the area starting the first of a season of worship services.

In Clark, an ecumenical service will be held at the United Methodist Church, starting at 7:00 p.m. A pancake supper will precede the service at 6:00 p.m. at the Clark UMC fellowship hall.

St. Michael's Catholic Church in Clark will hold their Mass with distribution of Ashes at 7:45 p.m.

In Bryant, Mass with distribution of Ashes will be held at St. Mary's Catholic Church at 5:30 p.m.

In Carpenter, the United Methodist Church, will have services at 7:00 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran Church in Bradley will combine with Crocker Lutheran Church for a service to be

Lent
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Cyclones have successful State B

Clark-Willow Lake had three wrestlers place in their respective weight classes at the South Dakota Class B Wrestling Tournament last weekend in Aberdeen. Josh Weisbrod at 113 and Jess Karber at 126 both finished sixth in their respective weight classes. Jakob Weisbrod, at 145, finished fifth.

Above, freshman Jess Karber walks off the mat triumphant in his third match on Friday, guaranteeing him a place on Saturday. Congratulating Karber are Cyclone coaches Chad Smidt, left and Cord Glanzer, right.

Photo by Renae Burke



Seeing robins in January? The answer is yes in Clark County. "I've never seen them around this early before," said Sandy Reitz of these robins who have been cleaning up her crab apples on the ground in her yard in Raymond. Fruit is a robin's winter food source. They switch to earthworms and insects when

the ground thaws. Many theories exist on why they are in South Dakota in January and February, but one fact remains true. It is that the robins have never been seen in our area this early before in most of our residents' recollections.

Great numbers of robins have been seen in January and February

So what's with all these robins around here in Clark County since January?

On January 13, Ralph and Carol Hurlbert saw 10 of them in their yard. Shortly after about 200 of them were noticed on a rooftop next door to Ted and Mary Lou Mehler's in Raymond. "I've never seen them that thick before," said Mehler. "Or, this early, we don't usually see them until mid March or so. No one I've talked to around here

has seen them around this early either. This is a first around here."

On a regular basis lately, these robins, known as 'flock robins' or 'winter robins' have been hanging around our area, cleaning up usually under apple and crabapple trees.

In the yard of Sandra Reitz in Raymond, the robins can be seen on a regular basis under her crab apple trees. There is also a fresh water source nearby as water is being pumped out of her basement. "I

think that's why, they are hanging out here, too, besides cleaning up the old crab apples that have fallen off the tree," states Reitz.

"Usually a couple blue jays are hanging around doing cleanup in the winter under that tree but this year I haven't seen them. The robins are taking it over this year. I've had that tree 19 years. My son Lee got it in first grade from the conser-

Robins
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Ag land valuations continue to be on the rise in Clark County

The 2014 Clark County assessment valuations were mailed out by March 1, 2014 and the value of your property is dependent upon what type of property you own and where it is located.

"Ag land will be increasing again, which has been the trend in recent years," stated Clark County Director of Equalization David Paulson. Paulson noted that land is assessed on the average agriculture income per acre for the county using an eight-year average, from 2005 to 2012, excluding the highest and

lowest year.

"As commodity prices have increased significantly over the last few years, the crop revenue per acre has also gone from \$306 per acre in 2013 to \$366 per acre in 2014," continued Paulson. "This (increase) has a direct effect on the assessment of ag land."

South Dakota State University along with the United States Department of Agriculture and the National Agriculture Statistics Service provide the data to establish the crop revenue. Sales of land are

no longer used in valuing ag land.

"Using the data, the income from the major crops grown and cash rent, is used to determine valuation," said the Clark County Director of Equalization.

The Director of Equalization office's total valuation for 2014 is \$890,000,000, up from \$734,000,000 in 2013.

"Our average assessed value will go from \$1,050.00 per acre in 2013 to approximately \$1,290.00 per acre

Ag land
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A look back at closed Clark County schools

Orioles became Bombers in 1953

The first schoolhouse in Bradley was built in 1886 on the site where the Bradley Christian School is now. As many as 60 students attended classes in the one room schoolhouse for three or four months in the fall and then again in the spring. Bradley's second school was built in 1898 but burned in 1903 after which a third school was built and dedicated in 1904.

The big brick schoolhouse which many locals remember was the large three story building that was built in 1923. Many students from Crocker rode the train home for weekends after staying in Bradley to attend high school. The school was 65 x 85 feet tall with a 35 x 60 foot gym in the basement.

"When you came in the front door, you could go down to the gym or up to the main level where the auditorium, lunchroom and elementary classes were. The next level up was where the upper grades were taught. There was also a mid level too it seemed where the superintendent's office was on a landing. And at the top there was even another level or loft, where a teacher's lounge or special ed was held I believe," stated Wendy (Fromdahl) Christman, a 1969 graduate. "I've got a lot of good memories of going to school there. I rode a big yellow school bus to school and remember one bad winter, I think it was in 1968/1969, my dad would take me to the county road to meet the bus with a tractor.

Bradley Bombers
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Bradley Bombers

Kim Kaufman wins 2014 Volvik Championship

Editor's Note: Clark's own Kim Kaufman graduated from Texas Tech last May and this year she is playing the entire Symetra Tour, in hopes of gaining her LPGA card. On Monday she won the Symetra Tour tournament, in California. This release was written by Bret Lasky of the Symetra Tour.

Kim Kaufman played a flawless final-round on Monday and finished at 7-under-par to win the 2014 Volvik Championship, her second career Symetra Tour victory. She fired a tournament-low 6-under-par 66 to best the field by four strokes.

Kaufman, who started the day tied for fourth at 1-under, made three birdies on the front nine to make the turn at 4-under for the tournament. She proceeded to make three more birdies on the back nine to sprint past the competition.

"It's been such a long week, but I texted my coach early in the week and said 'at the end of the week they are going to hand out a check to someone' so you have to go out



Kim Kaufman

there and play your best," said Kaufman. "It feels great that I shot 6-under, I just felt so good about my game."

Kaufman played a bogey-free final round.

Kaufman
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County terms expire this year

The four-year terms of three Clark County employees and three county commissioners expire and are up for election this year.

Incumbents Clark County Sheriff Rob McGraw, Clark County Auditor Chris Tarbox and Register of Deeds Janet Hurlbut, have all filed petitions for re-election.

The terms of County Commissioners are Violet Wicks, District I; Francis Hass, District III and Richard Reints, District V; all expire

County terms
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WEATHER

Ryan Eggleston - Official Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
Feb. 25	5	-12	0
Feb. 26	21	-12	0
Feb. 27	7	-15	0
Feb. 28	15	-4	0
Mar. 1	-4	-17	0
Mar. 2	3	-18	0
Mar. 3	8	-4	0
2014 precipitation to date	.24"		
2013 precipitation to date	1.22"		

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