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The hometown newspaper of Bob Christenson, Sioux Falls, SD

City council discusses future snow removal options

With approximately eight inches of new snow on the ground it was a good opportunity for the Clark County Council to talk snow removal.

This discussion, as well as involving a snow removal plan for the 2018-19 snow season, dealt with council/mayor/employee relationships.

In a carry-over discussion from the past two months, Mayor John Pollock asked Ronnie Clausen of Clausen Construction to be in attendance at the meeting, as Clausen Construction has been helping the city remove snow, when the mayor requests this aid in snow removal.

Clausen was a silent onlooker as Pollock and city road superintendent Roger Collins explained that the road grader/blade is 26 years old, the loader was purchased in 2007 and the semi truck that helps in the snow removal process is 'on its last legs'.

"We will see snow in March, but snow removal is probably not a big issue this year, but let's put together a plan moving forward," said Pollock.

As the council discussed various options, council person Kerry Kline, who is the council person in charge of streets, said that she wasn't aware of the 'old' equipment, but did feel strongly "that the city should do as much as we can ourselves and we always have, and the city crew takes pride in the great job they do," she said.

Council person Belinda Hanson felt as long as there is more than one company who could do this job that it should go through a bid process. Mayor Pollock said he agreed, and that he had brought it up to both proprietors in the community.

As the council talked about establishing a snow removal policy, Collins commented, "I would like to

have the ability to get the system rolling when we have a big snow." Collins continued that he gets caught in the middle of this predicament.

City attorney Chad Fjelland said that this snow removal policy from the council with objective criteria, should be put in place in the near future. Council president Louann Streff felt that the council should set a date, such as the July meeting, so the work gets done for this plan prior to 2018-19 snowfall.

Mayor Pollock asked Clausen to put a plan together 'with his people' prior to the July meeting so that the council can discuss and decide on various snowfall removal options.

In other business:

▲ Water/sewer superintendent Darin Altfillisch visited with the council about a drain tile project for the east edge of Clark, four blocks north of US Highway 212, at an approximate cost of \$12,244.

Pollock stated that this standing water has been an on-going problem.

"This is more a drainage issue than a water issue. I really don't know what else to do here, but I think this will be the answer," said Altfillisch.

Pollock then commented about the drop box to be installed this spring by Wookey's Assisted Living, to help with water run-off. "This will keep water away from people's homes," he said.

▲ Altfillisch said that the sewer plant will be decommissioned. The concrete will cost \$5,000 and the insulation spray foam will cost \$4,300.

The building on the southeast corner of town will still be Altfillisch's office. The old sewer system was taken out and gravel was

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Backroads Floral and Nursery has a little bit of everything - with a rural flavor

"My original goal was to bring the farming industry into my decor and bring it all together," stated Alissa Reidburn of her business Backroads Floral and Nursery in Clark.

"The Clark community is heavy into the ag industry so I wanted to focus on that in my decor in the shop. I love anything 'old' and 'farm', like old barns, windmills and old trucks," continued Reidburn whose logo is an old 48 Ford truck with flowers in the back of it.

Back roads are what Reidburn often takes when possible like those she drove back in high school when she commuted from their farm near Bradley to Clark High School where she graduated in 1998. "Like everything old, back roads have character and have their own story and history. You can't beat the views on a back road," says the 'small town girl' who enjoys the farm life.

Growing up near Bradley, the daughter of Allen and Pam Bjerke, Reidburn is no stranger to working with livestock and getting her hands dirty in the dirt. Her mother Pam as well as grandmothers, Mabelle Nelson and Dorothy Bjerke were all big gardeners, so Reidburn's love of horticulture and gardening expertise only grew over the years. Right after graduation, she immediately moved to Sioux Falls and took up horticulture and landscaping at Southeast Technical School.

She graduated from there in 2000 - the same year she married Jarvis Reidburn from Clark and designed her own wedding flowers.

She worked for a flower shop in Sioux Falls for a time gaining experience before the couple moved back to the Clark area. "Then life got busy," said Reidburn and with the family growing - the greenhouse idea got put on the back burner.

Previous to the greenhouse/store opening in Clark thoughts were thrown around about maybe having a greenhouse on their farm - the former Gilman and Dorothy Bjerke



Alissa Reidburn is shown by her favorite decor - the rustic farmhouse decor that is prevalent in her store on the corner of North Commercial and Second Avenue Northeast in Clark.

Backroads Floral and Nursery opened their green-

house in May with the store opening on Potato Day in August. Reidburn is an 'outdoor girl' with horticulture and landscape education and this shop fulfills a dream of hers she's had for many years.

farm they moved onto in 2012.

"When I used to work at the courthouse, I would always notice this unique old building - across the street, thinking and hoping that someday it would be a great building for my business with its big windows and unique architecture," continued Reidburn.

"Someday" came last May 1 with their purchase of the old National Bank building - built in 1902 and designed by Maurice Hockman. They also bought the small house next door which used to be the abstract office and the space next to it where the red barn greenhouse was placed last spring.

Excited to find out that there were nice wood floors under the old

carpet, tile and linoleum, the work began on scraping off the top layers so the wood floor was revealed. Some extra wood work was done with inlays and a medallion placed under her windmill fan. Old sliding barn doors were added and a corner was constructed with old barn wood and tin taken from the Kenny Sass and Elton Edwards farms for her corner work room.

The old bank vault in the building is where her walk-in cooler is for her fresh flowers. Reidburn and her family members did a lot of work last spring and summer at the site. "This building is a family labor of love," she states and appreciates all of the hard work done by her extended family and in-laws.

"Basically our whole family helped out so we could be open by Potato Day in August.

Reidburn enjoys unique flowers such as salmon colored geraniums and light blue lobelias for example. "Last spring, with that May 20 snowfall, I ended up running out of cucumbers and zucchini as everyone's froze. Every year is different with gardening. I enjoy visiting with my customers and learn from them, too."

Reidburn will work with her customers, customizing their landscape needs and will come to their home to fill a pot for them if need be - say they have a big pot too heavy

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Scams are on the increase - law enforcement can help investigate

▲ Police chief Jeremy Wellnitz, "Be aware of scammers"

Attorney General Marty Jackley, along with Clark Chief of Police Jeremy Wellnitz is again warning South Dakota seniors that the grandparent scam has resurfaced targeting all parts of the state. The scam begins with a telephone call from someone claiming to be a grandchild or other family member and requests money for a critical situation. "We have been getting hit hard with scams in our area and they are targeting the elderly," said Wellnitz.

Wellnitz continued that several scams, along with this one are affecting the Clark community. "Ev-

eryone has to be aware that scam artists are targeting this area. Let us help investigate this matter. Don't sit idle."

Consumers need to be aware that the scammers are getting better at targeting their victims by the use of the internet and social media - they are doing their homework to make the call sound more legitimate. Some calls have multiple scammers on the line impersonating the "grandchild's" attorney. The "attorney" indicates that they have already made an agreement with a judge and all they are waiting for are funds to be received in order for

the grandchild to be released.

If the scam works, the victim will wire money and by the time the senior realizes what happened, the money is long gone and most likely not recoverable.

Tips to avoid becoming a victim:

- Ask several personal questions including something that only a grandchild would be able to answer like a nickname, name of a family pet or special family tradition. This will help determine if this is a fraud or not.

- Independently contact the Scams (continued on page 12)

Winter storm shuts down the area Monday into Tuesday

March came in like a lamb, but became lion-like in a hurry. A winter storm covered much of South Dakota from Sunday to Tuesday this week.

Starting in western S.D. and gaining blizzard like strength across central and south central S.D., the winter storm shut down almost all eastern South Dakota schools on Monday and Tuesday of this week.

In the Clark County area, Clark, Henry and Willow Lake did not have classes on Monday and Tuesday. The Clark County Courthouse shut down Monday at noon because

of the weather and was not open Tuesday because of boiler problems.

The Clark County Board of Commissioners, who were to meet Tuesday, will hold the meeting on Thursday.

Thursday also is the snow date of the Round of 16 game that the Cyclones will play, in Huron. The game against Sanborn Central-Woonsocket, which was to be played Tuesday, will now be played tomorrow, Thursday. The winner will qualify for the State B to be held in Aberdeen, March 15-17.

As far as snow totals, roughly eight to 10 inches fell in many parts

of the county. Monday's snow was very slushy and full of moisture where as Tuesday's snow was as fluffy as Monday's was slushy.

Both Interstate 90 and Interstate 29 were closed Monday into Tuesday, but both were re-opened by noon on Tuesday and drivers were urged to drive with caution and slow down, as the Interstate lanes remained icy.

The forecast for the rest of the week is: highs in the upper 20's and lows in the upper teens, with Saturday's high temp to be just above freezing.



Read Across America Week is a big hit!

"Would you like them here or there?" "I would not like them anywhere!", shows the expression of Chad Thomas with the hand gestures of Amy Nelson as Sam-I-Am portrayed by Clark School superintendent Luanne Warren tries to get Thomas to eat his green eggs and ham. The delicacy was eventually liked and

enjoyed by Thomas as Amy managed to get a few morsels into his mouth at the end of the story.

All elementary students enjoyed their own green eggs and ham that morning as the school celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday last Friday ending National Read Across America week.

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