

DCI is assisting in a situation involving death of toddler in Clark

South Dakota Division of Investigation agents are assisting Clark, S.D., Police Department officers in a case involving the death of toddler found in a vehicle inside the city limits of Clark.

Tuesday, September 6, 2022, a 911 call was made requesting an ambulance be dispatched to the scene. Before an ambulance arrived, medical professionals on scene determined that a toddler had died.

At approximately 5:00 p.m. on

S.D. sees new scholarships as way to battle "brain drain"

Stu Whitney and Kylie Carlson
South Dakota News Watch

South Dakota is playing catch-up when it comes to stemming the so-called "brain drain" of college graduates leaving for careers in other states, with declining college enrollment related to the COVID-19 pandemic adding to the urgency.

Major employers such as First Premier Bank and Sanford and Avera hospitals – whose operations are tied to having skilled workers available for hire – are providing scholarship money and other incentives to assist the South Dakota Board of Regents in not just educating young people in the state but enticing them to take in-state job opportunities.

From 2015-2019, only 53% of the nearly 35,000 students who graduated from South Dakota's six public universities were working for in-state employers one year past their graduation. That percentage increased to about 70% when narrowed to just South Dakota residents.

Experts point to several economic realities that make it tough to reverse the trend in which many of the state's youngest and most educated and skilled residents are leaving the state where they grew up. Prior reporting by News Watch has also shown that teachers, in particular, are leaving South Dakota due

to the influence of divisive politics and the culture wars entering into curriculum and the classroom.

South Dakota ranks 50th in average pay for teachers (\$49,547), according to the National Education Association. The state also ranks 50th in the United States in average salary for registered nurses (\$60,550), according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Management. Across all occupations, the state ranks 48th in the United States for average annual pay (\$44,960), with the national average at \$56,310.

"What we're seeing more often than not when students leave South Dakota after graduation is that they can be compensated at high-

Brain Drain (continued on page 8)

WEATHER

Robert Cole - Official
Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
September 6.....	83	61	0
September 7.....	89	60	0
September 8.....	90	63	0
September 9.....	89	57	0.02
September 10.....	71	46	0.04
September 11.....	72	45	0
September 12.....	76	46	0
2022 precipitation to date	17.68		
2021 precipitation to date	16.75		



Clark Homecoming parade winners announced

The 2022 Homecoming festivities came to a close this past weekend. A little rain threatened in the morning and again in the evening, but it turned out to be great weather, with pleasant temperatures and little wind for the parade and Homecoming football game in the evening.

Judges determined placing of the parade divisions, and the winners were announced at halftime of the game. The theme this year was 'Game (Board/Card/Video) Night'.

Pictured above, are the winners in each category. Top left are the third graders, class of 2032, earning first place in the elementary walking division with 'Cyclones, Let a Victory Roll' (Yahtzee). Top right is the eighth grade, class of 2027, with 'Sink the Tigers' (Battleship) for winning the middle school division. Pictured bottom left are the juniors, class of 2024, with the theme 'Guess Who Beats the Tigers?' (Guess Who) for first place in the high school division, and bottom right is Clark Family Dental Center, with 'Chomp the Tigers' (Pacman) for taking first place in the business division. Dakota Butcher won the best decorated business, judged and awarded by the Clark-Willow Lake football cheerleaders.

City water rates will be on the rise through 2024

The September meeting of the Clark city Council was held Wednesday, September 7, in the Council Room of the Ulylyot Building.

The public portion of the meeting lasted an hour and a half with an additional forty minutes closed session for personnel discussion.

The department updates portion of the meeting held most discussion and decisions. Lead maintenance employee Darin Altfillisch brought up the dumpground hours topic. The council decided that the dump will be open every Saturday for the rest of the fall season from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Altfillisch then verified with the council that a one-ton truck purchase is in the 2023 budget. Just a chassis, the cost is approximately \$46,000, with the current one worth \$7,000 trade-in. Police chief Jeremy Wellnitz noted that it is important to get on the dealership list as soon as possible. A \$1,000 down payment needs to be applied when a dealership is decided upon.

Wellnitz then talked police budget items for 2023. Tammy Rusher, manager of the municipal golf course wanted to make sure that the golf carts that have been ordered, but have yet to arrive, will be here by next year.

Rusher then said, "We (the golf clubhouse) would like to stay open later on Saturday and Sunday. Currently, the clubhouse is the only place open on Sundays," she stated.

Dr. Craig Spieker, representing the Clark Rotary Club and the upkeep of the baseball field, was in attendance at Monday's meeting. The ball field used 196,000 gallons of water in July and 140,000 gallons in August.

Spieker noted that this amount of water is significant and he talked financing options to keep up Dakota Style Field. Altfillisch brought up that a well might be an option, as prior to going with Clark Rural

Water System for water, the city had four wells. "Getting one well back into operation might be worth looking into," said Altfillisch, and he and Spieker will research this matter.

Angie Werdel, representing the Clark Chamber of Commerce, talked Harvest Fest, for the 'kiddos' Saturday, October 1, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in downtown Clark. Strictly kid games, with a carnival

theme, Werdel was asking the city for tables, trash cans and the use of the public restrooms. The council approved all requests.

Clark Rural Water rates went up 50¢ on July 1, 2022 and now the city is passing on that water rate raise to all residents, going from \$5.20 per 1,000 gallons to \$5.70 per 1,000 gallons.

The city also talked water rates increasing to \$10.12 on January

1, 2023 and to \$20.25 on January 1, 2024 for a water surcharge (see Resolutions 859 and 860).

The council then approved authorization to advertise for 660 water meter installation bids. The \$64,800 cost of year one will turn into an annual rate of \$7,800 to \$8,900.

City Council (continued on page 7)



Vig and Larson chosen Homecoming Royalty

Queen Alicia Vig, left and King Mitchell Larson, were chosen Willow Lake High School Homecoming Royalty Monday night at coronation festivities in the Willow Lake High School gym.

Vig is the daughter of Norman and Tara Vig, and Larson is the son of Daron and Ann Larson.

Willow Lake's Homecoming Parade will be this Friday at 1:00 p.m. Clark-Willow Lake hosts Parker on Friday evening in the Homecoming football game at Willow Lake. Game time is set for 7:00 p.m.



Class of 1975 reunites for alumni weekend

The Clark High School class of 1975 gathered together over the Alumni weekend.

For the Homecoming parade, the class rode in the truck pictured above, driven by Tom Hallberg. They were awarded first place in the alumni division with their 'Mash Operation: Cylcone Victory' entry.

Class members pictured include, left to right: Tam-

my (Resick) Stoltenberg, Rod Clausen, Linda (Bull) Brozik holding picture of Randy Schrader, Shelly (Hess) Jensen, Janet (Danekas) Koelsch, Steve Heim, Barb (Hanson) Dalton, Carol (Lamb) Warkenthien, Brad Severson, Mary (Clausen) Hurlbert, Vernon Tarbox and Janet (Warkenthien) Hallberg. Not pictured: Kedrin (Holm) Wurmser.