

# Clark County Courier

The voice of Clark County since 1880

Nicolette Schmidt and Chantell Wren help cheer for the Cyclone wrestlers.

For more on the wrestling story, turn to page 6



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The hometown newspaper of John Fischer, Golden Valley, MN.

## Clark School Board decides to go with modified four-day schedule

Two discussion items took up the majority of the public meeting portion of the January meeting of the Clark School Board Monday night. The two items dealt with potentially air conditioning the school (s) and the school calendar for the 2014-15 school year.

At the December board meeting, school board members requested the administration to put together three separate calendars, a four-day school week, a five-day school week and a modified four-day school week calendar, for them to discuss and choose from at this January meeting.

The consensus of the board was to adopt one of these three calendars and have the ability to 'tweak' the chosen calendar at a later date.

A healthy discussion ensued, as a handful of teachers were also in attendance and the board involved teacher input in the discussion.

Proposed legislation (by the state in the upcoming session), professional development (inservice), student help and ultimately what is best for student learning were all key areas of discussion.

The recommendation of the board is to go with a modified four-day schedule. Board members Kim Seefeldt, Bob Steffen, Amy Sass and Trudi Gaikowski all stated that they were leaning toward the modified four-day schedule and Todd Fjelland stated that he was sticking to his five-day vote.

Fjelland then asked about an after Labor Day start approach to the school year and superintendent Brian Heupel reiterated what he said a month ago, that because of ending the semester before Christmas as well as all schools in the co-op and the state for that matter, start during the third week of August, that it would be unrealistic and educational services would be lost.

Heupel ended this discussion talking about the importance of professional development and how this modified four-day schedule would allow for adequate professional development. This four-day calendar will be a negotiated agreement item, as it annually is, with the certified staff, so it is just a recommendation by the board, with the ability to make changes, as needed.

Concerning the potential air conditioning plan of both the Clark Elementary and Clark High School buildings, representatives from Johnson Controls were in attendance to give a proposal.

This Design Build Approach was very detailed and organized and when actual financing numbers were talked about, even in ballpark terms, it caused board chairman Seefeldt to comment, "Budget-wise, I don't know if the timing is right at this time." Seefeldt continued that for next year "we're not really prepared to make that commitment at this time."

The board talked then about budgeting for this down the road, as with an opt out going on, it would be tough to look at an expenditure of \$150,000 to \$350,000 at this time. Board discussion will continue in the future on this matter, but

### Clark School Board (continued on page 2)

WEATHER				
Ryan Eggleston - Official Weather Observer				
	HI	LO	PR	
Jan. 7	3	-7	0	
Jan. 8	15	-13	0	
Jan. 9	26	11	0	
Jan. 10	28	15	0	
Jan. 11	36	17	0	
Jan. 12	36	15	0	
Jan. 13	33	15	0	
2014 precipitation to date tr				
2013 precipitation to date .08"				

## Francis Hass re-elected Clark County Commission chairman

The information in last week's *Clark County Courier* was incorrect: The article should read: Francis Hass was re-elected Chairman of the Clark County Board of Com-

missioners for 2014 during the January 7 meeting. Richard Reints was re-elected vice chairman.

We apologize for the misinformation.



Thomas Lamb home southeast of Clark



Jared Pommer home northeast of Willow Lake

## The rural landscape continues to look newer - heading into 2014

The construction building numbers are in for 2013 and there was estimated \$6,644,889 on the books for construction in Clark County.

These numbers are approximations actually being on the low side, showing building estimation in the county.

Grain bins to the tune of \$4.3 million are being built or have been built in Clark County with a very large bin system on the Chris Lamb farm. Grain bins out number new houses and homes in the county this year with 23 bins not including the Lamb farm system and the six new seed storage bins at CK Seeds east of Clark.

In the city of Clark, \$273,600 worth of construction was within city limits with \$6,371,289 outside of the city of Clark.

Mayfield Truss added a \$450,000 addition to the west of their building and the Mayfield Colony added a pole building for grain storage. Silver Lake Colony is building a large warehouse addition and Fordham Colony has added a \$100,000

car wash. Hillcrest Colony will be adding a hog finishing barn and Collins Colony added a farrow to feeder operation.

Commercial improvements in 2013 were a \$1.1 million dollar fertilizer storage building still in construction just west of Clark by the Clark County Farmers Elevator. South Dakota Wheat Growers also added fertilizer storage at the Carpenter location.

Permits were taken out for Velocity to put up a tower and shelter in Richland Township and a tower and radio room in Maydell Township. Central States Tower will have a cell tower in Richland Township and the Rural Tower Network company will have three GPS towers, one in Pleasant, one in Thorp and one in Elrod. A highway road surface camera was put up by Cliff Dekker's farm along US Highway 212 by the Garden City road.

Aaron Hemmingson put up a large retail sales building and Craig Spieker built a hangar at the Clark Airport.



John Maynard home southeast of Clark

New home permits were taken out in 2013 by John Maynard, Michael Borg, Jarrod Pommer, Travis Peterson, Jarod Matthews, Ted Obermeier, Forest Grimes, Garet Meier and Jerry Goldie with estimated totals inclusive being \$1,987,000.

Six mobile homes were moved into the county including three at Pleasant Dutch Dairy.

In Clark, five new garages were built and one was moved across town. Four storage sheds, four new

## 2014 Farm and Home Show set to go this Saturday, at Clark

Final preparations are underway for this year's annual Clark County Farm and Home Show to be held on Saturday, January 18 at the Clark High School Field House. The event is sponsored by the Clark County Crop Improvement Association, Clark County Homemakers Club and the Clark Lions. There will be commercial exhibits, crop and home exhibits, demonstrators and various programs geared toward people of all ages.

Make sure you put it on your calendar for Saturday, January 18, as it continues to be a one-day affair again this year.

The show will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Clark High School Field House.

There is no admission charge to the Farm and Home Show and pre-registration for exhibits is not necessary. A lunch stand will also be available during the day.

Entries can be made in several classes including foods, canned foods, homecrafts, needlecrafts, clothing, photography and crops. Only Clark County residents will be allowed to enter home economics exhibits. All crops entered must have been grown in Clark County in 2013.

Youth exhibits are open to school-aged children from kindergarten through 12th grade and exhibitors need not be in 4-H to enter. Youngsters are also reminded of the Farm Safety Poster contest being held for children aged kindergarten on up to



Clark County Extension 4-H Advisor Kim McGraw hauls the crop display cases to the Clark Field House, home of the 2014 Clark County Farm and Home Show. This will be the eighth time that the Field House will be home to this event.

Come one and come all, to the 2014 Clark County Farm and Home Show.

fourth grade in the Clark and Willow Lake Schools.

Home economic and crop exhibits to be judged may be dropped off January 15 to 17 at the Clark County Extension Office during regular office hours. Entries will be accepted at the Farm and Home Show until 10:00 a.m. on Saturday. Rules, classes and lot numbers can

be picked up at the Extension Office.

### Saturday Activities

At 11:00 a.m. Clark High School English teacher Sherray Hurlbert will talk Kindle Fire™ on the CHS gym stage. She will answer any

### Farm and Home Show (continued on page 2)

## Tyler Silkman is the new city maintenance worker

▲ Water rates to go up 25¢ per 1,000 gallons

The January meeting of the Clark City Council lasted approximately an hour and forty-five minutes with the final forty minutes being held in executive session.

After the executive session, Tyler Silkman was hired as a city of Clark maintenance worker at an annual salary of \$33,000. The executive session was held for personnel and contractual reasons.

At Wednesday's council meeting, in the first reading of Ordinance #518, Mayor Larry Dreher is proposing a 25¢ per thousand raise in the water rate. If approved at the February council meeting, a base rate fee of \$13.00 per month, plus \$4.50 per every 1,000 gallons will be charged. Also at the February meeting the council will determine when these new rates will go into effect.

During the Public Input portion of the meeting, Sportman's Bar owner Mike O'Neill questioned the fairness of the \$150 annual snow

removal fee. Mayor Dreher explained that the city has three snow removal tiers for businesses and that O'Neill is on the bottom. Said Dreher, "If you feel it is too high we can discuss it and take it under advisement." The council will decide the snow removal fees in February.

Four council seats and the mayor's position are up for election this year. The municipal election date is set for Tuesday, April 8, 2014. (See the 'vacancies open' story for specifics).

During finance officer Luttrell's department update she told the council of her Friday meeting in Watertown about funding for the proposed wastewater treatment facility project.

"This is a long, tedious process and frankly, I've been getting the run-around," said Luttrell and she added that what the city has budgeted for the land will not come

### Silkman

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## Vacancies are listed on local governing boards

Several notice of vacancies for positions on local governing boards will appear this week and next week in the Clark County Courier. In addition to area town board seats, registered resident voters may file petitions for the Henry School Board. The municipal elections this year fall on Tuesday, April 8, 2014.

Petitions for any of these boards may be obtained from the town finance officer or in the case of the Henry School, from the business manager at the school office.

Petitions may be circulated beginning Friday, January 31 and need to be filed by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 28, 2014.

Position openings include:

**Clark:** This is a busy year for Clark as five municipal positions are open in 2014. The mayor's position, a three-year term, held by incumbent Larry Dreher is open as well as council seats in Ward I, Ward II and Ward III.

In Ward I, Vicki Orris is the incumbent, in Ward II, Kerry Kline is the incumbent and in Ward III Lon Reidburn is the incumbent, all are for three-year terms. Also in Ward III is a one-year term up for election, currently held by Tony Woodland. Jackie Luttrell is the City of Clark finance officer.

**Henry School:** Henry School District #14-2 holds their election the same time as city elections. Tow three-year terms are open with the incumbents being Adam Hartley and Terry O'Neill. Dianne Easthouse is the business manager at Henry School. Clark and Willow Lake schools hold their school board elections in June.

**Garden City:** One council position will become vacant due to the expiration of the present term. Doug Loomis is the incumbent for this three-year council position.

### Vacancies

(continued on page 2)



Chris Lamb grain bins southeast of Clark



Safe Travel USA Tower east of Clark