

School board looks at a fitness/wrestling room building option

▲ Interest in gymnastics presented

The December meeting of the Clark School Board was a lengthy one, lasting three hours. An hour-long executive session for a student matter early on in the meeting helped add to the longevity.

Angie Werdel is interested in bringing gymnastics back as an extra-curricular sport at Clark School. She, and a group of gymnastics enthusiasts were heard during the public forum portion of the meeting.

Werdel feels that the numbers are there to resurrect the gymnastics program and she would be willing to serve as coach, if need be. She spoke of how she is targeting freshmen and under as the focus group and the first couple of years

would be 'building' years.

Currently a handful of Clark students travel to Watertown for gymnastics. Werdel asked the board about steps to be sanctioned and offered fundraising activities and felt this would be a great option for a winter sport.

Superintendent Luanne Warren said that her next step should be to contact Willow Lake School to see what the interest is there and then come back to an upcoming meeting to talk future gymnastics - as to where would they practice, what equipment is needed, what would the competition schedule look like, etc.

After the executive session, Kyle

Gaikowski met with the board regarding the wrestling room/fitness room expansion to the Field House.

Gaikowski has experienced several steel building projects in recent years and he reached out to Landmark Builders, of Watertown, to see what a building bid from them would be.

Last month, the school board heard a bid of roughly \$700,000 for this building project. What Gaikowski and the school board discussed was roughly the same square footage, as Gaikowski handed out a sheet with all of the construction details and a price tag of approxi-

School board
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Sunday School programs to be held in the area

Many children's Christmas programs in area churches will be held this holiday season. Christmas celebrations will continue as Christians in the community and around the world recognize the birth of the Savior and the new life he brought to the world.

Clark services

At the Clark United Methodist Church a children's program will be held on December 15 during worship at 11:00 a.m.

At St. Paul Lutheran, they will be having their Sunday School program on Sunday, December 15 at 9:00 a.m.

Willow Lake area

On Sunday, December 22 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in

Vienna, the children of the church will be presenting their Christmas program at the 8:30 a.m. worship.

The Sunday before Christmas is the date, December 22, for Grace Lutheran Church's Sunday School program to start at 11:00 a.m., followed by a potluck dinner.

Willow Lake Evangelical will have their parish Sunday School program at 6:00 p.m. on December 24.

At the United Methodist Church in Carpenter their Sunday School/Parish Christmas program will start at 6:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve. This will also be their candle-light service.

Bryant

In Bryant at Our Redeemer

Lutheran Church, their Sunday School children will present their Christmas program during worship on December 22 with the service to begin at 9:45 a.m.

Bradley

St. John's Lutheran Church in Bradley will have their Sunday School program at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, December 22.

The Bradley Christian School will have their Christmas program on Thursday, December 19 at 6:00 p.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church.

Henry

In Henry at the United Methodist Church, on Sunday, December 15, a children's Sunday School program will be held during the 10:45 a.m. service.



Over 40 floats participated in the Lighted Parade. This clever Green Bay Packer Float shows quarter-back Aaron Rogers as Santa Claus.

Christmas in Clark is well received

Christmas in Clark, sponsored by the Clark Chamber of Commerce was a big day for the community. Many positive and kind words were said about all of the organized activities.

A full Clark American Legion Hall played bingo, with Terry Schlagel calling the numbers. More tables had to be put up to handle the crowd.

Next was the Soup Cook Off won by Trevor Forest and his whop de do chili.

The weather was ideal for the Clark Lighted Parade. Many didn't sit in their respective vehicles, but lined the streets.

The Most Festive Parade entry went to Fuller's DD Clydesdales, with Raymond 4-H as runners-up. The Most Unique Award went to Westside Implement. Taking second place was Clark Dental - The Griswolds.

The evening culminated with the lighting of the Clark Christmas Tree in Flat Iron Park. The

Parade and Tree Lighting were sponsored by Plymouth Congregational - UCC and the Clark Chamber.

Prior to the lighting ceremony, some Clark High School choir members, under the direction of music teacher Amy Nelson, sang Christmas Carols. Terry Schlagel was the emcee for the day. Mayor John Pollock said a few words and Pastor Fawn Lamb gave the invocation.



'In December' is elementary Christmas concert theme

The Clark Elementary preschool - fourth grade Christmas Music Concert was last Thursday. Directed by music teacher Amy Nelson, the theme was 'In December'.

Many different instruments, including xylophones, bells, boomwhackers and sticks were featured.

One of the preschool-kindergarten songs, shown above, was 'Red and Green'.

Young performers pictured, left to right in the front row are Anakalia Bokinskie, Allie Schmidt and Berkeley Herr. In the middle row, left to right are Blakely Hallberg, Ava Meier, Willow Lenzen, Bayler Hurlbut and Kamden Werdel.

In the back row, left to right are Cali Boykin, Tessa Thomas and Trynlee Ortberg.

Courier Christmas edition to be published Tuesday, December 24

With Christmas on a Wednesday this year, the Clark County Courier Christmas Greetings edition with Christmas greetings from many area businesses will be put together a day earlier.

The paper will 'be put to bed' on Monday afternoon, a day earlier than usual, so it can be delivered

to all county subscribers on Christmas Eve day, Dec. 24. It also will be available for counter sales on Tuesday.

The same thing will occur for New Years one week later. The New Years paper will be out on Tuesday, Dec. 31.

WEATHER			
Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer			
	HI	LO	PR
Dec. 3	31	12	0
Dec. 4	36	24	0
Dec. 5	36	25	0
Dec. 6	35	19	0
Dec. 7	41	18	0
Dec. 8	41	24	0
Dec. 9	28	2	.19
2019 precipitation to date	37.14		
2018 precipitation to date	17.97		

Gov. Noem proposes lean budget for FY2021

By Dana Hess
Community News Service
Tax relief for South Dakotans will mean a lean budget year for the state.

During her annual budget address, Gov. Kristi Noem noted that a change in federal law would prevent South Dakota from continuing to collect sales tax on internet use. When that change goes into effect in July of next year, the state will lose \$20 million in revenue. Municipalities are projected to lose \$10 million.

"This will provide permanent tax relief for families and businesses who currently pay the government for simply accessing the internet," Noem told a joint session of the Legislature on Tuesday. "That's great news for South Dakota families and also a lean budget year for the state."

Noem's proposed \$4.9 billion budget for FY2021 includes \$1.7 billion in general funds, \$1.7 billion in federal funds and \$1.4 billion in other funds.

The loss of \$20 million in internet tax revenue will be felt hardest in the area of ongoing revenue. Data that Noem shared with lawmakers showed that in the past five budgets, South Dakota has had an average of \$52 million in increased revenue. After adjustments, the FY2021 projection for new, ongoing revenue is \$22.7 million.

In addition to the \$22.7 million projected in ongoing revenue, Noem also called for spending \$18.5 million in one-time funds including \$16.7 million from the budget reserve.

During the last legislative session, when Noem made her first budget speech to the Legislature,

Noem
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Arguably the top story in 2019 in Clark County is the construction and completion of the Geronimo Energy Crocker Wind Farm. Geronimo Energy has now sold the energy to Walmart and Cargill. The wind towers are now turned on. This photo was taken on August 13.

Crocker Wind Farm is now online and operating

The Crocker Wind Farm is now online and producing electrical energy. In a news release from Geronimo Energy, Thursday, it announced the start of commercial operations for the Crocker Wind Farm, a 200 megawatt wind energy project with 77 wind turbines located in northern and northwest Clark County. The Crocker Wind Farm has Virtual Power Purchase Agreements in place with leading corporations, Walmart and Cargill. The project was built by Wanzek Construction and utilizes GE 2.7- 116 wind turbines.

Because of the type of project the Crocker Wind Farm is and the enormity of the project, there was some opposition to the wind towers. This opposition played out in county commission meetings as well as South Dakota Public Utilities commission meetings.

"Crocker coming online represents the culmination of many years of collaboration with the community and has and will continue to bring economic development to rural South Dakota," said Blake Nixon, Chief Executive Officer

for Geronimo Energy. "Crocker is unique in that it is 100% contracted by corporate Virtual Power Purchase Agreements. Increasingly more corporations are making the choice to include renewable energy procurement in their sustainability goals - and Geronimo is proud to be playing a role in our industry's continued growth and expansion into corporate power purchasing."

The news release continues: Geronimo began working with local landowners to develop Crocker with the intent to positively impact its local and state host communities. Crocker is estimated to have provided hundreds of millions of dollars in economic impact throughout the development and construction phases, including job creation, increased local spending, and capital infrastructure improvements. In the first 20 years of operation, the project is anticipated to further benefit the economy with tens of millions in tax revenue, landowner payments, and new full-time job creation, as well as \$800,000 in

Crocker
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