

Clark County Courier

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Nothing really on the front burner at Clark School Board

Clark superintendent Brian Heupel had been talking about the December school board meeting for some time because he knew he would be coming off his second knee replacement surgery in less than two years. That was the case as Heupel has had both knees replaced and was visibly in some pain. Heupel purposely scheduled a fairly routine agenda and the December meeting of the Clark School Board lasted a little over two hours with policy review, the Governor's budget as it affects the Clark School and financials as the main items of discussion. The January meeting will remain the second Monday, Jan. 14, after some discussion initiated by board

member Kim Seefeldt, as she will not be able to be in attendance on the 14th. **Business items discussed included:**
▲ No executive session was necessary.
▲ A student attendance matter has the administration looking at truancy charges, as 15 school days have been missed by a student for the first class of the day to absent/tardy reasons.
▲ The Guided Reading by the elementary staff of Mary Filipek and Melissa Olson was the School Program Showcase item. Filipek and Olson felt this is a positive program as it allows students to progress at

their individual level and also to cross curriculums with various assignments.
▲ Clark School business manager Heidi Sigdestad color coded all revenue/expenditure areas so the school board could see how the finances are doing in each respective area. Sigdestad received positive feedback from the board on this financial tracking.
▲ During the policy review segment of the meeting, board chairman Michelle Mehlberg led discussion on the form and timeline in which the superintendent is evaluated. January is the month when

School board
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Sunday School programs are being held in the area

Many children's Christmas programs in individual churches will be held on Sunday, December 16 and some on December 24. 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 St. Paul Lutheran, 5:00 p.m. is the start of their children's Christmas program on December 16. A Christmas party will follow with a sandwich and cookie lunch. At the United Methodist Church in Clark, their Sunday School Christmas program will be during

the morning worship on Sunday, December 16 at 11:00 a.m. Also on December 16 at 1:30 p.m. will be the church bell and choir concert at the United Methodist Church. The Assembly of God will have their church Christmas program with children and adults on Sunday, December 16 at 7:00 p.m. At the Plymouth Congregational Church (UCC) their children's Sunday School program will be held on the 16th at 9:30 a.m. during the church service. The Baptist Church of Clark is planning on a Christmas program with refreshments to follow on Wednesday (today) evening, De-

ember 12 at 6:30 p.m. **Willow Lake area**
On Sunday, December 23, the United Presbyterian Church and the UCC Church's Sunday School children will present their program at 7:00 p.m. at the United Presbyterian Church. Fellowship will follow the program. On Sunday, December 16, at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Vienna, the Sunday School will start their program at 10:00 a.m. Good Hope's Sunday School children will be joining them in their presenta-

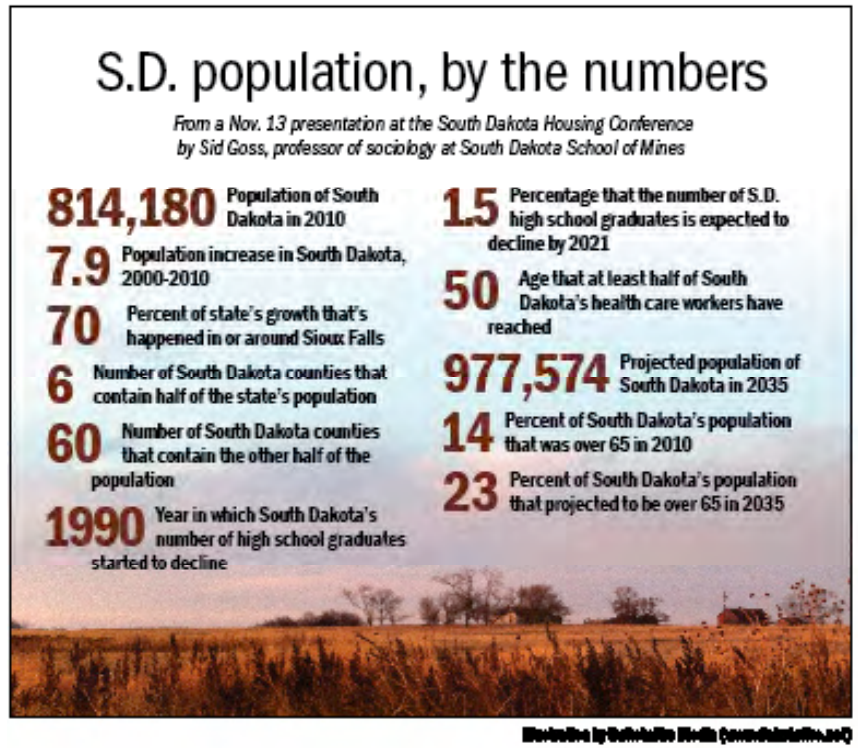
Sunday School
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Population trends affect housing in South Dakota

South Dakota's population is changing, and as a result, so is housing in South Dakota. The shift in population from younger to older, and from rural to urban, was the focus of School of Mines professor Sid Goss' presentation at the 2012 South Dakota Housing and Development Association conference in Pierre this November. Goss, a professor of sociology at the S.D. School of Mines, explained that while South Dakota's population is growing, more than 70 percent of that growth is happening in Sioux Falls and surrounding communities. In most of the state's counties, including the Dakotafire region, the population is dropping, due to both outmigration and an aging population with a high death rate. More than half of the state's population now lives

in six of the state's 66 counties, and those counties are where the housing market still remains strong. "The biggest percentage increase, of course, was Lincoln County, which grew by 86 percent," Goss said. "That

is the fourth-fastest growing county in the United States of America." In contrast, far fewer homes are being built or sold in rural parts of **Dakotafire**
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Joyce Lien is one of many Clark County residents who dug out from over half a foot of snow total from the weekend double dose of snow events. After snow blowing her driveway, she used a shovel to clear a path by the mailbox. The forecast for the remainder of the week is above-normal December temperatures, and no snow in the immediate future.

With December comes winter and a white Christmas

It looks as if Clark County will have a white Christmas in 2012. Winter arrived in the form of an Alberta Clipper last weekend and back-to-back snow events placed somewhere between six and ten inches of the white stuff on the ground in the county, depending on where you live. County residents had to 'hunker down' last weekend, especially with blizzard conditions on Sunday. Church services were called off and very little vehicle traffic occurred, as driving conditions just didn't allow it. The Clark-Willow Lake Cyclone basketball doubleheader with Sioux Valley started Saturday afternoon before the second round of snow began. By the end of the evening, over four inches of snow had fallen, it was snowing hard, and it was advised by authorities: 'No travel in Clark County unless absolutely necessary.' The Sioux Valley contingent made it home okay, as did the Cyclone wrestling team from Faulkton. "It was slow going, but we made it

home fine," said wrestling co-coach Chad Smidt. "It took us quite a bit longer than usual, but we could see the road okay." Clark County Deputy Sheriff Gail Smith thought Saturday night travel was easier than Sunday morning. "It was snowing hard Saturday night, but at least one could see the contour of the road. On Sunday morning, it was blizzard conditions with a very slippery road, he stated. Much of Smith's Saturday night was spent aiding a semi truck in the ditch on S.D. Highway 25, in the southern end of the county. "It took multiple wrecking crews and four hours to get the semi up and going," said Smith. As hard as the wind blew on Sunday, Smith noted that some areas of the county had worse driving conditions than other parts, due in part to high drifts, slippery conditions and traffic. "There was some traffic on 212, but it was slow going," said Smith, and he noted that he counted at

least a half-dozen cars in the ditch over the weekend. By Monday, everyone had started cleaning out and area schools were opening a couple hours late, but open. Interstate 29 between Sioux Falls and Sisseton was shut down on Sunday and re-opened at 9:00 a.m. on Monday. The temperatures and snow really have one feeling like winter is now here, and, yes, it does look like a white Christmas, after all.

WEATHER			
Ryan Eggleston - Official Weather Observer			
	HI	LO	PR
Dec. 4	32	18	0
Dec. 5	45	21	0
Dec. 6	39	22	0
Dec. 7	29	19	.28
Dec. 8	26	19	.38
Dec. 9	19	-10	0
Dec. 10	18	-12	0
2012 precipitation to date	18.30"		
2011 precipitation to date	21.45"		

Christmas traditions are an important part of the season

Christmas seems to arrive earlier each year. What causes this? One reason is that every Christmas season we try to out do ourselves by creating traditions to be passed on to the next generation. With Christmas quickly approaching, several traditions, which have come across the Atlantic Ocean several generations ago, will be remembered. **A Norwegian traditional Christmas**
Marlys Peterson of Willow Lake enjoys her Norwegian heritage. When asked what percentage she is, she kids "I'm 100% Norwegian - the best kind there is." Her mother came from Norway when she was 19 years old and met her husband here. Having a lot of memories at Christmas time, of familiar traditions, that Marlys likes to keep going, first among them is the basic meaning of a strong faith and a love

of family togetherness at Christmas. "Mom would say it's not the gift that is important, or its cost, only how it is given and if it's from the heart," grins Marlys. 'Jer er saa glad' is a special meaning in the Norwegian language on Christmas Eve. It means I am so glad and is the first line of the song *I am so glad each Christmas Eve* that JoAnn Eggleston plays at Grace Lutheran's candlelight service on Christmas Eve. It has special memories for the two sisters Marlene Lamb and Marlys Peterson, who are the last of the Edwin and Margaret Haug family. Their mother Margaret who was born in Hadeland, Norway really enjoyed Christmas and left a lot of traditions of feasting, music, togetherness and whimsy at the holidays. "Christmas Eve was the real Christmas, mom would say," says Marlys. "We'd always have lutefisk



Marlys Peterson of Willow Lake is 100% Norwegian and enjoys sharing her heritage with her children and grandchildren. She has her mother's Scandinavian cookbook and large cookie cutter as shown above along with other whimsical items to make Christmas fun for the younger set. "I like to think of something that has meaning for my family to go along with the gifts each year," says Marlys with a grin.

for supper on Christmas Eve. It's plain white codfish, soaked in a lye brine then rinsed. It's boiled in water and is served with lots of butter. We usually had it with lefse and flatbread. There were also plenty of sweet things at holiday time. "After the big meal, we would go outside and give extra food to the animals in the barn. We'd hang a shock of wheat or grain with suet on it for the birds. Then we'd often just stand outside and sing Christmas songs. Then one parent would ring Christmas sleigh bells to add to the magic of Christmas. "Inside on the Christmas tree, the children would fold little baskets made of paper to hang on the tree. Supposedly the little people or trolls would fill the baskets at night with hard candy. When my mother was young, this was the only Christmas gift they would get when times were hard back then. My grandpa used to say that trolls

were a magic creature of our imagination. When anything went bad, we blamed the trolls. They would come out at Christmas especially and in Norway we would put food on the doorstep to keep them happy so they wouldn't steal our Christmas presents. I think it was good to have laughter and whimsy in the cold shanty when a blizzard would be raging outside. Around Christmas, we would blame the trolls for spilled milk and things like that. We'd have fun with it," recalls Marlys of her and her siblings' antics. In Norway, they would celebrate Christmas from Christmas Eve until New Year's Day. The only work would be to care for the animals, says Marlys of her family history. **Christmas goodies**
Fattigman - bakkel is a cookie **Christmas traditions**
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