

Clark County Courier

The voice of Clark County since 1880



PRESIDENT'S DAY IS MONDAY

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The hometown newspaper of Lois Aronian, East Jordan, MI

★ TOP ★
of the Week

WEATHER

Ryan Eggleston - Official
Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
Feb. 8	43	25	0
Feb. 9	35	21	0
Feb. 10	45	13	0
Feb. 11	38	-5	0
Feb. 12	14	-9	0
Feb. 13	27	-10	0
Feb. 14	22	15	0
2022 precipitation to date	0.30"		
2021 precipitation to date	0.62"		

President's Day is Monday, February 21

Due to the President's Day holiday, no mail will be delivered Monday, February 21 and many federal and county offices will be closed.

However, the *Courier* office will be open in order to meet Tuesday's deadline, ad copy and news items should be to the *Courier* by Monday's 5:00 p.m. deadline.

Webster make-up boys basketball game

The Webster boys basketball make-up game will be Monday, February 21 in Willow Lake.

Legislators to be in Clark Monday, Feb. 21

The Clark County Farm Bureau and Farmer's Union will jointly sponsor a get-together with our District 2 legislators.

Senator Brock Greenfield, Representative Lana Greenfield and Representative Kaleb Weis will be in Clark on President's Day, Monday, February 21 to meet with interested people in the Community Center of the Ulyot Building, at 10:00 a.m.

Patrons are urged to attend this Cracker Barrel and listen to the legislators and ask personal questions. The 2022 legislative session is past the halfway point with 16 legislative days remaining. This is a good time to become informed as to the progress made to date as well as the concerns to be settled before adjournment.

Lee Schlager tourney is Saturday, Feb. 19

The 10th Annual Lee Schlager junior varsity boys and girls basketball tournament is this Saturday, February 19.

The boys teams participating are Clark/Willow Lake, Castlewood, De Smet, Hamlin, Hitchcock/Tulare and Redfield.

The girls teams are Clark/Willow Lake, Florence/Henry, Hamlin, Hitchcock/Tulare, Redfield and Webster.

Municipal filings can be circulated

Nominating petitions for city government offices and the Henry School Board which are becoming vacant due to term expirations, may now be circulated. Those petitions are available from the respective finance offices, or for Henry School Board, the Henry business manager.

All open positions have had public notices run in January, as well as two front page Clark County *Courier* articles.

The petitions must be filed no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 25.

Thirty-four days until Spring

The thermometer shows this February has been a rollercoaster. The highs have been quite high (for February) and the lows have been below zero. It must be a La Niña system.

The wind seems non-stop. The northwest winds have been brutal the first half of February. We're lucky we don't have a couple feet of snow on the ground.

The winter has been quite dry, so spring flooding chances are below normal at this time.

No precipitation is forecast until a week from now, as a snow event could happen Feb. 24.

February is the month when school board decides on renewing administrative contracts

A two and a half hour executive session was held after the almost 90 minute public meeting of the February Clark School Board meeting. Superintendent Travis Ahrens was evaluated at January's meeting and he was hired for the 2022-23 school year during the public meeting, with salary to be determined at a later date.

After the lengthy closed session, business manager Mary Nelson's contract was approved.

Elementary/colony principal Renae Dahl was not rehired.

Middle/high school principal/SPED director, Jennifer Heggelund, was rehired. All administration salaries will be determined at a later date.

The first business at the school board meeting was high school senior Macy Steen asking for board permission, and financial help, to convert the middle/high school hallway, just south of the library, into a comfortable place to study for AP classes.

Later in the meeting, the board discussed and approved \$3,000 to supplement the 2022-23 budget, to make this project a reality. It will be completed by the start of the next school year.

The Duenwald bus contract was tabled. This action, means no action was taken at Monday's meeting. Superintendent Ahrens said because of the hefty financial commitment by the school, that several "particulars in the budget still needed to be hammered out."

The school is looking at both a three-year and five-year contract, weighing the pluses and minuses.

A special board meeting could be called later this month to decide this contractual matter.

Ahrens also led a lengthy discussion concerning the five-year capital outlay budget, concentrating on next year, 2022-23.

He explained that currently the plans are in the \$425,000 range, but that could change. Last year, the school spent \$650,000 on capital outlay and the capital outlay fund balance is \$805,000.

The idea of splitting the proposed building project, the new wrestling room and new garage, could save the district \$30,000-\$50,000, by not doing it all at once.

Field House renovations are also in the plans, as the wrestling room would be north of the gym, if built, not in the Field House.

Sizes of the new structures will have to be firmed up for the bid process, if the board decides to do just one of the two, wrestling room or garage for the vans, for 2022-23. Decisions will be forthcoming in future meetings.

In other business:

* The propane tank has been installed in the ag class greenhouse.

* The C.H.S. pep band will be performing on Saturday of the State A Girls Basketball Tournament. The board allowed community members to be part of the band.

* The board approved \$1,000 purchase of title IX policy from KSB School law.

* The board also approved a non-binding letter of intent for 2023 girls softball participation.

* Emily Meginess was hired as a part-time elementary custodian.

* All school board members were present including Robert Steffen, Todd Fjelland, Malony McIntire, Greg Marx and Nathan Lucaas along with administrators Ahrens, Nelson, Heggelund and Dahl.



This Saturday is the tenth annual Lee Schlager Memorial Basketball Tournament. Proceeds have been used for scholarships and donations to local organizations and activities. The Schlager family is shown by the Clark Lions Club - Lee Schlager Memorial Court sign. Left to right are Lee's parents, Terry and Deb, and Lee's sister Cassi with husband Brandon Kottke and their son Brody Lee.

Lee Schlager 10th Annual Tournament is Saturday

"Lee was a kind person with a laugh that could bring a smile to your face. He was a team player and loved sports. Lee's unexpected death in 2011, at the age of 25, was absolutely heartbreaking but it is events like this that help us keep his memory alive."

Saturday, February 19 marks the tenth anniversary of the Lee Schlager Memorial Basketball Tournament, held annually the third Saturday in February.

The aforementioned first paragraph describes Lee through the eyes of his family, mom Deb, dad Terry and sister Cassi. A junior varsity basketball tournament is a very appropriate event to keep Lee's memory alive.

"Lee was just a nice, all-around athlete and a lot of fun," said Terry, "He was fortunate to be surrounded

by good teammates and coaches."

The Lee Schlager Memorial Basketball Tournament has been very successful the first nine years of the tournament. Because of COVID-19, the tournament was not held in 2021.

The basketball tournament has always had a boys and girls division, involving junior varsity players. This year there are six teams in each division with a lunch counter and a silent auction, with many sought-after items.

Said Deb about everyone's generosity, "with the funds raised, we have provided over \$86,000 in scholarships to Clark High School and area senior athletes. We have donated over \$90,000 to area organizations and projects, such as the 4-H, Clark Area Baseball and Softball, Potato Days events, youth

sports, Clark Lions and Rotary projects, Rec Center, Raymond Park improvements and others."

Terry added that the support from the community, church, friends, family and classmates has been fantastic, and appreciated.

"There's a young lady from Sioux Falls who likes to remain anonymous. She and her husband are long-time family friends and have been major contributors over the years and that has helped considerably to support the efforts of the Lee Schlager Memorial. We're lucky to live in such a caring and giving community" said Terry, "Thank God for all the volunteer help for working the tournament."

For more on Lee's legacy, check out the back page.

Clark begins voting redistricting process

▲ Wards will remain virtually the same

Every 10 years, following the census, by statute, municipalities must redistrict, equaling out all boundaries, wards and precincts.

At February's meeting of the Clark City Council, ordinance 5-6 was given its first reading. City of Clark's three voting wards show minimal change, as Ward I will still be the southern part of Clark, Ward II will remain the middle portion and Ward III, the north end. Each ward will have a little over 375 people.

A redistricting resolution regarding this ordinance was passed by the council.

Department updates was an important part of the Monday meeting. Lead employee Darin Altfillisch wants to purchase back up cameras for the skid loader and the pay loader. Altfillisch then told the council he thinks now would be a good time for the skid loader to be purchased by the city. The city has had it a

year in December, and Altfillisch feels it will be a good, long-term investment for the city. Altfillisch also would like to get a dump box for the old sludge truck.

The discussion then turned to the budgeted \$99,999 for three tanker loads of hot mix from Top Coat. Altfillisch is looking to do 45 blocks throughout Clark this summer.

The City is still attempting to be eligible for a \$12,000,000 water grant loan from the state of South

Dakota.

Drainage on the west edge of Clark involving the Jim Freeze residence, was discussed. The city is trying to figure this issue out, and Altfillisch stated the sooner it was fixed the better, plus he didn't think it would take much to fix it.

Tom Wookey was at city Hall Monday asking for help in solving the flooding problem in his field south of town. "Hope you guys will work with us," said Tom Wookey, and he explained how this problem was created. "It makes a mess of that quarter every year with flooding," said Wookey.

The city fixed a city drainage problem about a dozen years ago, but ran out of budgeted finances, and this trench just stops. It would take about \$6,000 to complete.

Councilman Brandon Kottke said something in writing, should be gotten from USDA.

City attorney stated that this item will be on the agenda next month so that something can be done.

A land auction of city properties will be auctioned off at the April 4 meeting, after proper advertising

In other business:

* Sherri Daniels was hired as the golf course kitchen manager at \$15.00 an hour.

* After a half hour executive session for contractual reasons, no motions were necessary.

* Dump rate fees will be going up. Altfillisch and finance officer Alaina Wellnitz will look at the fee structure.

* North Idaho Street will convert to a one-way street on the west side of the elementary school during pick up times before and after school, starting next August.

* There will be two meetings in March. The regular meeting March 7 and the equalization meeting March 15.

* All members were present for the 5:00 p.m. Monday meeting. Mayor Kerry Kline and council members Andrew Zemlicka, Shane Hagstrom, Nick Dalton, Brandon Kottke, Derrick Dohmann and Melissa Nesheim along with Alaina Wellnitz, finance officer, Chad Fjelland, city attorney, Darin Altfillisch, lead maintenance employee and Jeremy Wellnitz, police chief.



Youngsters provide halftime entertainment

The youngsters stole the show at halftime of the Cyclones versus Hamlin girls basketball game.

Nate Helkenn, with the basketball, waits for a screen from brother Lucas, as he drives against Alex

Nesheim. Alex is the son of Jerome and Melissa Nesheim. Lucas and Nate are the sons of Chad and Beth Helkenn.

Photos by Heather Jordan



Pie in the face for a good cause

One of the favorite halftime activities of all time was the 'Pie in the Face' fundraiser at halftime of the Hamlin Doubleheader on Tuesday.