



Weather is an important topic at school board meeting

As the Clark School Board held the March meeting, Monday, weather was a 'hot' topic.

A winter storm is forecast for the entire state, Wednesday and Thursday and with the Cyclones qualifying for the SD Class B State Tournament, in Aberdeen, starting Thursday, superintendent Luanne Warren informed the board that the team was going up late Tuesday, to beat the storm. All qualifying teams were planning to go early, reported Warren.

The discussion then turned to the harsh winter of 2018-19, including numerous days with late starts and how to handle the makeup days when school was canceled.

Even though spring officially begins a week from today, the school board acknowledged that winter is far from over, so an official decision regarding makeup days for days missed will be made at the April board meeting.

Warren broke down, snow days - wise, where we stand right now and she recommended ending school no later than May 22.

Junior high students are leaving on a trip to the east coast on May 25.

Warren explained, at length, how many hours the state mandates and how many hours Clark students have attended. "We have the ability to forgive these (days) as long as you exceed the mandated hours," Warren said.

An official snow makeup day schedule will be decided upon at the April meeting.

Regarding late starts, Warren was asked how many days has the school started late this winter and her reply of 'too many' brought about the discussion of factors that come into play with getting students to and from school.

Board member Nathan Luvaas, who lives in the Bradley area, commented that county road plowing

doesn't begin until 7:00 a.m. and he would like to see an emergency bus route during snow alerts coordinated between school and county similar to priority routes established by many entities. Superintendent Warren and the board, would like to see what could be done, as safety has to be the most important factor during adverse weather condition decisions.

In other business:

▲ An hour and five minute executive session was held for personnel reasons and negotiation strategies. No motions were forthcoming following the closed session.

▲ Chris Bokinskie, spring baseball coach, was on the agenda, as due to several feet of snow on the ground, baseball practice outdoors is impossible. Bokinskie requested the use of the Field House on Wednesdays and Sundays, for players to play catch and stretch out their arms. The season begins April 9, weather permitting, with 22 players signed up to participate. The board allowed Bokinskie's request.

▲ FFA advisor Matti Boomgaarden visited with the board about a potential Clark FFA officer summer retreat. It would be a four-day retreat at a Minnesota

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WEATHER

Robert Cole - Official
Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
Mar. 5.....	7	-9	.02
Mar. 6.....	11	0	0
Mar. 7.....	14	-1	0
Mar. 8.....	18	-1	0
Mar. 9.....	28	18	.11
Mar. 10.....	31	6	.41
Mar. 11.....	22	4	0
2019 precipitation to date	2.86		
2018 precipitation to date	0.53		

Robert Murphy is a true Irishman

▲ St. Patrick's Day is Sunday, March 17



Robert William Murphy is proud of his Irish heritage and also looked the part last week as he shared some of his knowledge of Ireland's history and legends as they were handed down and shared with him.

To the left is a map of the country with its 32 provinces and subdivisions called counties - similar to our states. Murphy is holding the Murphy family crest with an uprooted apple tree at the bottom of it.

Like the Irish say, "Don't let the truth get in the way of a good story." This was the start of the conversation last week with Robert W. Murphy of Clark. With St. Patrick's Day this coming Sunday, we thought it would be interesting to visit with a true Irishman.

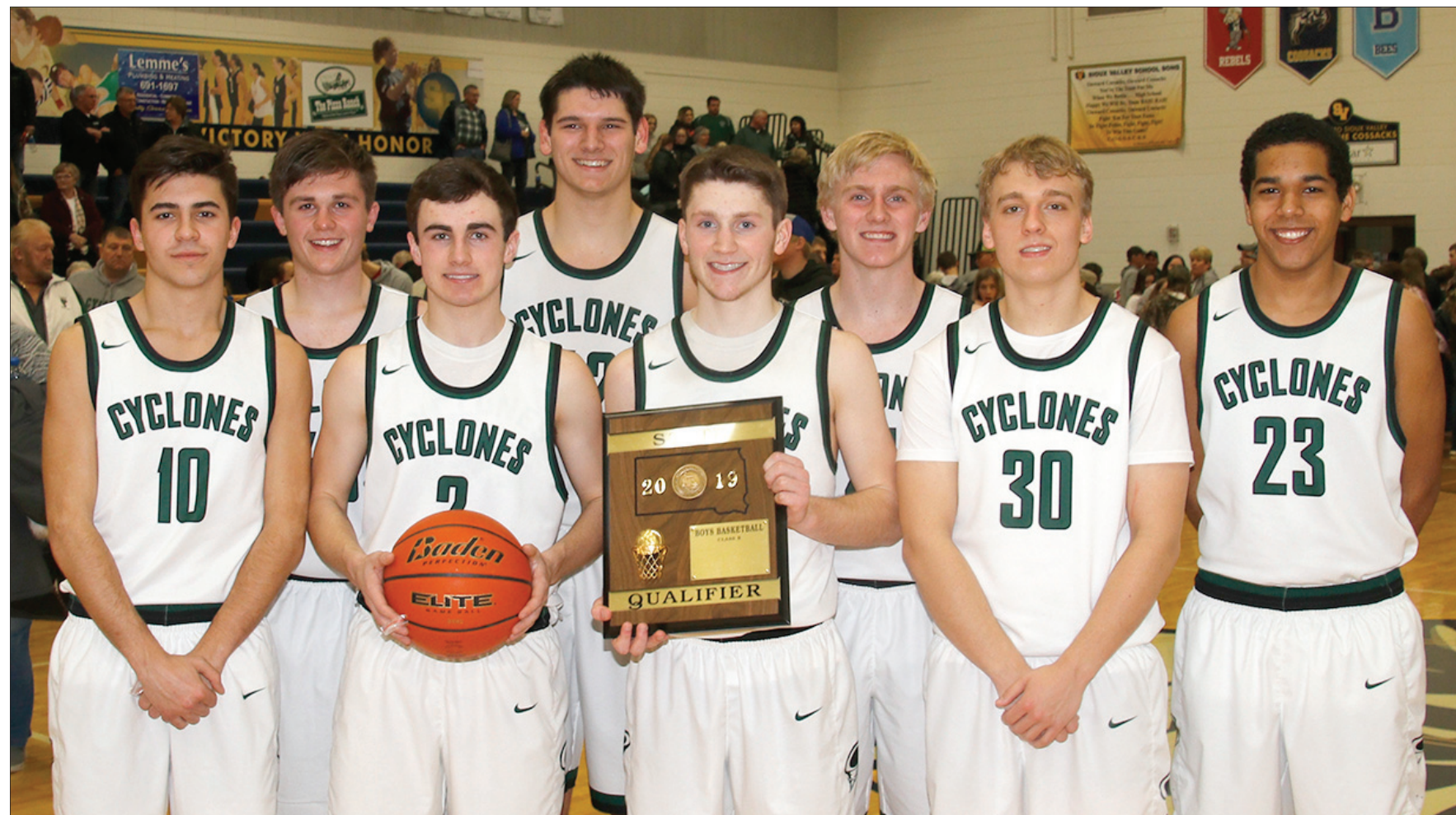
In years past, Murphy has lent his Irish flag as well as an American one to Watertown's St. Patrick's Day parade and carried it as well in 1990 on the 10 block route. He was also involved in recent years with Vienna's St. Patrick's Day parade.

The flag, as Murphy explained used to be solid green with a harp on it like the crest that represents the country of Ireland.

"The Irish have a lot of music in their heritage, that's why a harp is in their crest," he explained.

The flag was later changed to the green, white and orange stripes - one of the French fry flags he noted of the slang for the vertical stripes. The green color towards the pole on the left represents the Catholics, the white color represents peace between the peoples and the orange represents the Protestant north.

The legend of St. Patrick as he heard it, was that he was originally from Britain and was kidnapped and taken to Ireland to herd pigs. He later escaped back to Britain and then went on to France to study where he eventually became a Bishop and acquired the name St. Pat-



Thus far from the SoDak 16 results, all the top seeds in each respective game, have advanced. It's a guarantee at the South Dakota Class B State Tournament, this weekend, in Aberdeen, that it will not happen. That is why the tournament is played.

Many of the eight teams could vie for the title on Saturday night, including the 19-2 Clark-Willow Lake Cyclones.

Clark-Willow Lake, the third seed, will play the sixth seed, Sully Buttes

Any and all teams have a chance at the State B

▲ Cyclones play Sully Buttes, Thursday

"This year's field is loaded from top to bottom. I don't see a weak team at all," said Clark-Willow Lake boys basketball coach Jerome Nesheim of the upcoming South Dakota Class B Boys Basketball Tournament to be held March 14-16 at the Barnett Center on the Northern State University campus, in Aberdeen. "We are hitting on all cylinders going into this thing. It is going to be another wild and great state tournament."

The Cyclones are seeded number three, playing the sixth seed, Sully Buttes in the opening round game of the state tournament. Sully Buttes defeated Clark-Willow Lake in last year's championship game. Game time is slated for 7:45 p.m.

Nesheim continued, "Qualifying for a state tournament is always something special and it isn't something we take for granted at all. After losing in last year's state championship game, our guys have

been focused and determined to get back to the tournament for a second chance. Getting to the state tournament makes all the hard work and long hours worth it."

In the evening session earlier game, number two, Timber Lake, who the Cyclones defeated at the Hanson Classic in January, play the number seven seed, Bridgewater-Emerly, who was the preseason number one seed.

The afternoon session has num-

ber one White River against number eight Viborg-Hurley in the first game and the second game features number four Jones County against number five De Smet.

The Cyclones are a senior-laden ball club starting four seniors: Travis O'Neill, Grayson Florey, Micah Burke and Jacob Prouty. Senior Jeffrey Paulson is the first person off the bench. The fifth starter is

State B
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This winter has been especially hard on wildlife. Deer have bunched up into large herds and are very visible. This deer was spotted near the road a couple miles north of Clark.

Winter mortality is mounting

"All wildlife is officially in survival mode coming into March, especially this year," said Clark County Conservation Officer Zach Thomsen about the wildlife condition after a harsh two months of winter.

The winter has been a combination of heavy snow, frigid weather, windy clipper systems, all adding up to more days of blizzard like conditions, causing food sources to be at a premium.

Plus, with what seems like three

feet of snow on the ground, the end of winter is not in sight. "With weather predictions not letting up with more snow and now rain it is difficult for the critters to find a high protein food source they need," said Thomsen. And he continued along that same line, "Winter mortality is always needed to know to determine wildlife populations for future fall seasons."

And, Thomsen reported that there have been some calls of dead

wildlife. Said Thomsen, "Please contact me if you are finding any winter mortality whatsoever and in a timely fashion. GFP is highly interested in knowing where the wildlife has been dying and how many critters are not making it through the winter. GFP is interested in the numbers that are dying and the age structure of deer especially that are

Winter mortality
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Murphy
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