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Clark School Board discusses opt out, calendar and new laws

The Clark School Board is moving forward with a \$300,000 opt out. At the March meeting of the Clark School Board, the \$300,000 opt out resolution was approved unanimously (and the Resolution For Opt Out appears on page 7 of this week's Clark County Courier). The board's decision to act on the resolution at this time is to stay with the original time frame set out by the board. The half hour board discussion, concerning all factors involving the opt out, dealt with whether or not more solid numbers for individual taxation purposes and would be available a month from now. But, the board consensus was that the bottom line is \$300,000 is needed and that now is the time to go through with this formal action.

Trudi Gaikoswki and Amy Sass voted in favor of the \$300,000 opt out resolution. The next topic, the formal adoption by the board of the 2013-2014 school calendar, was a controversial matter. This calendar, put together by the Clark Teacher Association, to begin August 19, 2013 and end May 20, 2014, had the first semester end before Christmas, was not in session on Monday (federal) holidays, had a two-week break at Christmas and had seven Fridays of student contact built into the calendar. Class would be held on 16 Fridays during the school year. Board member Kim Seefeldt expressed the fact that this calendar went against the school board's 4-day calendar format, originally set up in 2010. "This goes exactly against what we tried to change," said Seefeldt, and she added that she would like to see more information forthcoming, as parents need to know that Fridays, consistently, would be a day not in session, rather than just random Fridays, and she felt more information is needed on this matter so that parents, teachers and students would all have a say in this change.

on a 4-1 vote, with Mehlberg, Steffen, Gaikoswki and Sass voting in favor and Seefeldt against this proposed calendar. A healthy discussion on the Cyclone co-op meeting held recently was next on the agenda. Both Clark School Board and Willow Lake School Board would have to approve the seven items, individually, brought to the respective boards, and at this time it was only as discussion items from the meeting. The items discussed included: 1. Request for Co-op to pay for coaches state and individual sports dues; 2. Request to hire one athletic director; 3. Request to take a vehicle from both schools to the following contests: Watertown, Henry, Castlewood and Clear Lake; 4. Request to schedule two parent meetings; one before fall sports seasons begin and one before the winter sports seasons; 5. Location of post season contests; 6. Request to create a Co-op coaches handbook; 7. Request to treat all home games as such and allow athletes to drive to games hosted in Clark and Willow Lake.

Superintendent Heupel reviewed bills and laws from the South Dakota School board (continued on page 9)

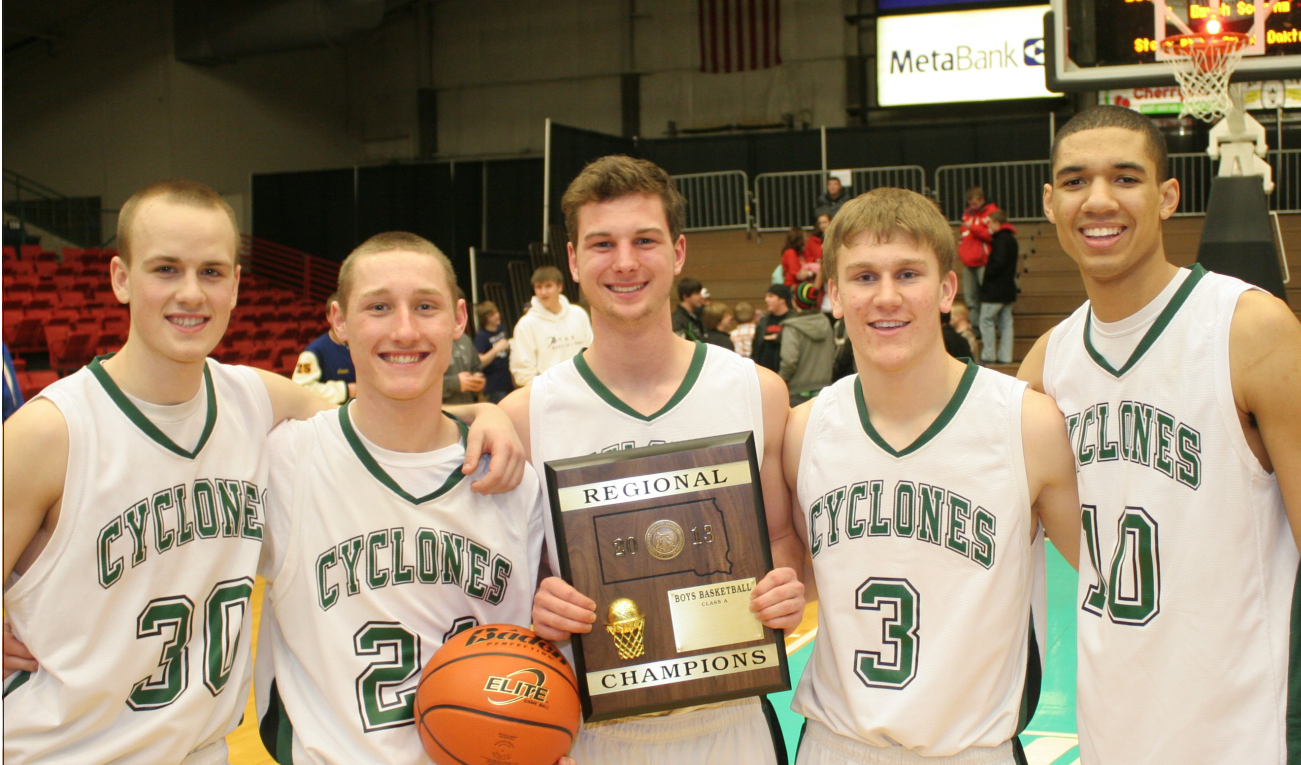
Legislature passes \$4.1 billion budget on final day of main run

By Elizabeth "Sam" Grosz Community News Service Legislators finished their work by passing a \$4.1 billion general appropriation bill March 8, encompassing more money for schools and Medicaid providers than in the most recent past. Not everyone was happy, however, with the allocation of funds during the final garnering of amendments to HB1185, and \$1.72 million was left on the table unallocated. But legislators were assured that \$1.7 million was not too much. Rep. Susan Wismer, D-Britton, a frequent critic of how the state spends its money, said last year's \$1.6 million left on the table had resulted in \$47 million going into reserves. She opposed passage of the bill "with that amount of money

unappropriated." Wismer, fellow Democrats, and several renegade Republicans were critical of the money that should or could have gone to help K-12 education and Medicare providers, but instead was spent on constructing new buildings, tearing down old buildings and putting more money into reserves. Sen. Billie Sutton, D-Burke, who also serves on the Joint Appropriations Committee, was generally kinder and more conciliatory in his attempt to amend the budget. But, the frustration was evident. The attempt had been to give Medicare providers another \$4.6 million and education another \$2.1 million, both in one-time money. They also Legislature (continued on page 9)

WEATHER Ryan Eggleston - Official Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
Mar. 5.....	23	16	0
Mar. 6.....	19	12	0
Mar. 7.....	30	12	0
Mar. 8.....	33	13	.25
Mar. 9.....	31	17	.30
Mar. 10.....	20	5	0
Mar. 11.....	28	4	0
2013 precipitation to date	1.77"		
2012 precipitation to date	1.93"		



Clark-Willow Lake senior basketball players winning Region 2A include, left to right Torrey Kolden, Lane Hovde, Andrew Wegner, Rhett Florey and Skyler Flatten. The Cyclones are undefeated at 21-0 and seeded number one at the State A Tournament this weekend in Rapid City. Clark-Willow Lake plays Platte-Geddes at 12:00 noon Mountain Daylight Time Thursday, in the tourney's first game. It took double overtime for the Cyclones to defeat Deuel 69-68 in the Region 2A championship game, Tuesday, at Brookings.

Cyclones are the top seed at State 'A'!

The Clark-Willow Lake boys basketball team is having a season one doesn't want to see end! This weekend however is the one everyone has been waiting for and all eyes will be on the Cyclones in Rapid City to see if there are three more wins 'in the tank' to cap off an unbelievable season. To this point the Cyclones have achieved perfection. Winners of 21 games without a loss, Clark-Willow Lake won both the Northeast Conference and the Lake Central Conference, as well as District 3A and Region 2A. The Cyclones will be the top seeded team at the State 'A' and will face off against eighth-seeded Platte-Geddes in the first game of the tournament. Clark-Willow Lake head coach

Jerome Nesheim's teams have won 11 of 13 district tournaments and this will be his sixth state tournament, the Cyclones sixth this millennium and the second year in a row. Last year Clark-Willow Lake finished sixth at state. "Your record only determines what time you play in the state tournament," said coach Nesheim. "Being the number one seed only tells me we play at 12:00 MT. Platte-Geddes is probably one of the better coached teams in the state. They are one of the most athletic teams in the state. They are a lot better than their record shows. We are going to have to play well and do things right. I think last year we were just content to be at the state tournament. This year the boys seemed to be more determined and

focused and they have been all year. We don't want to be content in just qualifying for state." The opening round match-ups at Rapid City include: #1 seed Clark-Willow Lake vs. #8 seed Platte-Geddes at 12:00 p.m.; #4 seed Spearfish vs. #5 seed Tea Area at 1:45 p.m.; #2 seed Aberdeen Roncalli vs. #7 seed Mobridge-Pollock at 6:00 p.m. and #3 seed Madison vs. #6 seed Pine Ridge at 7:45 p.m. The Cyclone starting five consists of guards Lane Hovde, Mitch Prouty and Skyler Flatten, forward Torrey Kolden and center Tyson Jenkins. Key members off the bench are Rhett Florey and Braxton Hartley, Andrew Wegner, Cody Nelson, Cooper Hartley, Rory Forest, Rawson Yost, Ty Wicks and Noah Huber.

Cyclones end season with sixth place finish at State

▲ Chynna Stevens named All-Tourney

The Clark-Willow Lake Cyclones finished the 2012-2013 campaign with 19 victories and six losses on the season, finishing in sixth place at the South Dakota Class A Girls Basketball Tournament over the weekend in Watertown. "It was a great experience for our entire team, not only on the court, but off the court as well," said Cyclone head coach Wade Stobbs of gaining state tournament exposure for the fourth consecutive year. "It was a pretty good tourney," states Stobbs, as the Clark-Willow Lake Cyclones won one and lost two games at the state tourney, but all three games were very competitive for the Cyclones and basically went down to the wire. Chynna Stevens was named to the All-Tourney team. Stobbs said it is very important to emphasize the fact the team did qualify for the state tournament and now needs to continue to work on fundamentals, such as ball handling, to limit turnovers in the future and improve on ball skills. "The last four years we've finished at State. It really gives our girls next year something to shoot for, with high expectations," the coach said. Clark-Willow Lake 39 Aberdeen Roncalli 47 The Aberdeen Roncalli Cavaliers used their pressure defense to help create 25 turnovers - many of which led to points - in their 47-39 victory over the Cyclones Thursday afternoon in the first round of the state Class A girls basketball tournament. More than half of the points Roncalli scored came off turnovers and fueled the Cavaliers to their second victory of the season over their fellow Northeast Conference foe. "We knew what they did and they knew what we did," said Stobbs. "It was just a matter of coming down to who could execute. We had 25 turnovers and they're going to score on half of them. That's what they rely



Senior Chynna Stevens attempts to snag the basketball before it goes out of bounds in the Friday game at the South Dakota State 'A' Girls Basketball Tournament, at Watertown, against Sioux Falls Christian. The Cyclones defeated Sioux Falls Christian 61-



Blowing snow just keeps coming

▲ Or is it snow blowing...

With St. Patrick's Day this weekend, hopefully, the 'Luck of the Irish' means we won't be seeing anymore snowstorms and blizzards this winter. It seems as if every weekend of recent memory has had a snow/wind event. This past weekend many parts of Clark County received half a foot of snow or more. School started late, at Clark, on both Monday and Tuesday. Above, Doug Harrington of rural Raymond, once again takes the snowblower (hidden) to the large drift in their driveway. The shovel in the foreground (on the snowbank) is used to break down the snow first, then the snowblower and Doug go to work. This is the third time in February/March the snow has been above waist high. In the background, their retriever Daisy takes a rest after rolling in the cool snow.

34, and earned sixth place honors at state. Stevens was named to the All-Tourney team for the second consecutive year and will continue her basketball career next year as a freshman at South Dakota State University. Stobbs reiterated that the 25 turnovers was the difference in the

Cyclone girls (continued on page 9)