

Clark County Courier

The voice of Clark County since 1880

Happy St. Patrick's Day today (Wednesday)



First day of spring is Saturday



Wednesday, March 17, 2021

Vol. 140, No. 38

www.clarkcountypublishing.com

\$1.00

The hometown newspaper of Mavis Jenkins, Sioux Falls, SD

City looking at a dog park at skating rink location

Municipalities always meet the third Monday in March as an Equalization Review Board, with a local school board member sitting on the review board. Such was the case Monday at the Ulyot Building with Clark School Board chairman Robert Steffen representing the school.

A year ago valuations went up substantially and this year there was no increase. Because of that there was no activity on the equalization portion of Monday's meeting.

Once the council became the council at the meeting, Mayor Kerry Kline introduced discussion of creating a dog park at the skating rink site, a block south of US High-

way 212 on the west side of Dakota Street.

Kline is pursuing a grant to help with fence financing, as the city already owns this property. The skating rink is about half of the land the city owns as the city land extends south of the skating rink as well, Kline stated.

The mayor thought this would be a good idea for everyone, the community, dog owners and would be great interaction for the dogs themselves. If this does go through, the skating rink could become a thing of the past. The council will have the ability to move forward with this dog park at the April and May

City
(continued on page 3)

Clark School Pops Concert is Tuesday, public invited

Clark School music department will present the annual Pops Concert next Tuesday, at 7:00 p.m. in the Clark High School gym.

This event is a Tier 1 event, meaning it is open to the public. Anyone who likes music and wants to support the musicians is urged to attend. Of course masks are encouraged, as is social distancing.

The school choirs are directed by Amy Nelson. The singers will present:

Fifth and sixth grade choir will sing *Sesere Eeye* and *The Lion Sleeps Tonight*. The seventh and eighth grade choir will perform three numbers, *True Colors* - a girls

ensemble, *I'm Still Standing* and *Stand by Me* - a boys ensemble.

The high school choir, grades 9-12 will sing, *Let the River Run*, *Waving Through the Window* and *Into the Unknown*.

The bands are directed by Tabitha Schmidt. The 7-12th grade band will perform, *Closer Walk with Thee* and *Tarzan - Sound track highlights*.

Sixth grade band will play, *Best of Beethoven*, *Go the Distance* and *The Incredibles* and the fifth grade band will play *Be Still my Soul* and *Star Wars*.

Africa and *Colors of the Wind* will be performed by the Jazz Band.

Clay Yeoman's stone house is quite a landmark

Every trip that Clay Yeoman took from St. Paul, Minn. to Gettysburg (pre 1999) he would notice in particular the stone house approximately six miles west of Clark along U.S. Highway 212.

The stone house was built back in 1908 it's estimated as records show that Mr. and Mrs. Ed Klampe hired Cal Simpson, a rock splitter, to build their house starting in 1906.

Rocks were split on site evidently as Yeoman states that anywhere he digs around his house has rock chips in the ground.

Rocks and mortar made for walls that ended up being two feet thick and also go down into the ground eight or nine feet as sides to the basement. "You can't move this one," stated Jim Orris in 1999 when he was negotiating buying the sturdy house.

Appreciating antiques of all kinds, Yeoman's interest was piqued with the old house. An inquiry to Pam at Dekker Hardware in Clark led him to the home's owner at the time - Jim Orris, who farms and lives nearby.

"It was pretty bad, however I thought it was salvageable," admitted Yeoman of his first impression of the home with its holes in the roof opening it up for a raccoon habitat.

A bleach bath and 25 wheelbarrow loads of 'scat' later, work began on the house. A new roof was priority. "I'd come back and find raccoons on my roof, wondering where their entrance went, probably," chuckled Yeoman after his roof was replaced.

All new sheetrock inside, a new concrete basement floor, plumbing
Yeoman
(continued on page 12)



Approximately six miles west of Clark along U.S. Highway 212 is a quaint little stone house which caught the attention of its current owner Clay Yeoman many years ago. Seeing its potential under the years of wear (and raccoon habitat unfortunately due to a hole in the roof from a fire in the 1980s), Yeoman took

it upon himself to resurrect this home for a weekend get away from life in the Twin Cities.

One thing led to another with the result being Yeoman's residency in Clark County for the last 17 years and the quaint little stone house - once again a cozy home on the South Dakota prairie.



Willow Lake senior Ag students Chayla Vig at left and Aaron Poppen, each hold a flying drone in Dan Tonak's Ag classroom. For the last three years, the school has added drone technology instruction to the Ag students. With help from grants the school now

owns three different dji drones, with each one more high tech than the previous one. A Phantom 4 and a Phantom 4+ are the larger white ones. Checking crops, livestock and water laden areas in the fields are common uses for drones within the Ag industry.

Willow Lake FFA senior students are involved in drone education

Drones play valuable role on the farm

"You can get some great views from an angle you wouldn't see otherwise," stated Aaron Poppen regarding the dji Phantom drones, property of the Willow lake School.

Ag teacher Dan Tonak is utilizing them with his Ag students as drones have become a great tool, used by producers in the Ag industry.

Senior Ag student Chayla Vig added, "The best use for these on the farm is checking on crops and checking on livestock. I was a little scared at first but then I got the hang of it. Then it was fun."

The photos and videos that these drones take with their digital cameras are very high quality according to Ag instructor Tonak.

On the two newer models the Phantom 4 and Phantom 4+, have the cameras hanging down from the center of the flying machine - similar to a remote control helicopter. The cameras can be turned and angled 180° and the drones can fly as high as two feet to under 400

feet. Four hundred feet is the limit for the smaller drones like these without permits. "Bigger ones than these need permits," stated Vig. "According to FAA regulations."

The bigger models can be programmed to make videos right down to where and when and for how long. "You could program these to follow your tractor along as you dig up a field," said Tonak. "Wind and temperatures are also a factor with these. With the battery packs, they can go about 20 minutes so it's not a real big window of opportunity to use them. Temperatures above 50° and a wind speed of 15 mph or less are also conditions we need to follow with these.

"They take a lot of 'juice' to run with the short lived battery packs, but they do give you a warning ahead of time which is nice. The range on these is 1/2 mile or better, but we've never had them go that far away."

fun to play with." Tonak believes the kids are more efficient with the remote controls than the adults usually are, due to their vast experience with remote controls and video games growing up in a more technological age.

The two toggles on the remotes are similar to gaming remotes with each one doing its job of going up and down, right to left and the other

Drones
(continued on page 7)

WEATHER			
Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer			
	HI	LO	PR
Mar. 9.....	59	32	0
Mar. 10.....	68	32	0
Mar. 11.....	32	21	0
Mar. 12.....	38	20	70
Mar. 13.....	46	19	0
Mar. 14.....	52	34	0
Mar. 15.....	41	28	35
2021 precipitation to date	1.96		
2020 precipitation to date	1.07		

It was a year ago that COVID-19 became a pandemic

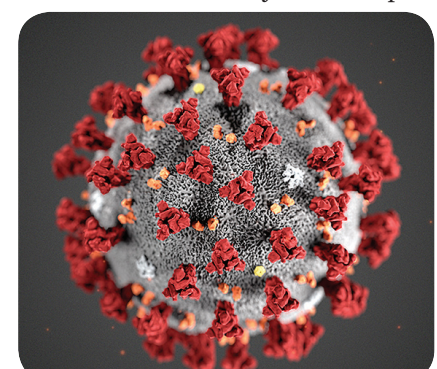
It was one year ago this issue that the top half of the front page of the *Clark County Courier* and probably every other newspaper in America, was devoted to the coronavirus pandemic.

The number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 continued to grow. Little was known about the virus at this time. The world-wide death toll on Monday, March 16, was 7,074.

Patients, for the most part, eight of 10, experience a mild form of the illness, which can include a fever and pneumonia. The elderly and those with underlying conditions such as diabetes or heart and lung issues are the most vulnerable.

In rural South Dakota, a year ago, the fear of the unknown, coupled with countless cancellations, stock market crash and prescribed precautionary measures, life was turned upside down, unlike anything we have seen in recent history.

All events involving substantial numbers of people were shut down and there was no recipe or direction for what would come next. Social distancing with what is best for the individual and family was the pre-



scribed priority for the 330,000,000 Americans, regardless of geographic locale.

On all levels the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), South Dakota Department of Health (SD DOH) and local author-

ities were working to manage coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

There was a full-blast fire hose for journalists trying to cover the breaking news. It seemed as if every hour there was a new development.

New federal guidelines were put into place, limiting gatherings to 10 people or less.

Recession talk abounded as the stock market had lost roughly 7,000 points in a matter of 10 days.

The federal government including Congress and the White House were eyeing a massive \$850 billion stimulus package to help the financial crisis.

March 2021
Now fast forward to the present and the end gate is in sight, but we're not there yet.

As of Monday, March 15, there have been 29,229,162 cases in the

COVID-19
(continued on page 3)



All State Chorus has been canceled for 2020-21

South Dakota High School All State Chorus is always the last weekend in October. Because of the pandemic the event wasn't held last fall and an attempt was made to have it this spring. That attempt failed so there will be no All State Chorus this school year.

All State Chorus will be held next October. Since this year's music was not used it will be the 2021-22 All State music.

Even though there will be no performance the Clark High School All State Chorus members include, from left to right Logan Hurlbert, alto; Chad Kolden, bass; Heath Hemmingson, tenor and Emma Rahm, soprano. All are juniors in high school

Alternates chosen to represent Clark, should one of the above not be able to attend, are Chasity Lewis, Conner Mudgett and Zachery Weber. Amy Nelson is the choral director for the group.