



## Building expansion is thwarted due to economy

### ▲ At Clark School

A special Clark School Board meeting was called for Wednesday, April 15, for negotiations with the certified staff and to decide upon the Field House/wrestling room/garage addition.

No motions were made following the hour-long executive session negotiations meeting.

During the half-hour long public meeting, the board discussed the \$314,051 Boss Construction bid for the addition north of the Field House/gym.

A healthy discussion ensued. On the one hand, the administration and board have been putting quite a bit of time and effort toward this project and a definite need for a new wrestling practice facility as well as vehicle storage is a qualified need.

It was noted that the Boss Construction bid would run out at the end of the month because the price of steel would be increasing.

Clark School business manager Mary Nelson reported that with this project, the preliminary capital outlay budget would be \$693,657

for the 2020-21 school year. This addition would be a capital outlay expenditure.

As the building addition discussion unfolded, the coronavirus economy plays a major role in the timing of this construction project.

The consensus of the school board was when one considers the economy, plus county valuations have increased, plus administration and teacher openings have increased, plus the school is still on a \$350,000 opt out of the tax freeze, that this just isn't the right time to consider this addition.

Said board president Robert Steffen, "It is in the best interest of the school and the community to not do this right now." Board member Greg Marx concurred, adding, "If the money's not there - the money's not there. I'm in this for the kids and the community."

The capital outlay is part of the entire school budget which will have a hearing upon, in July and finalized in September.

## Now is the time to file for school board at Clark and Willow Lake

Two school board spots are open at both Clark and Willow Lake currently.

Individuals can circulate petitions now until May 8.

At Clark two, three-year positions are available. The current incumbents of these positions are Todd Fjelland and Shannon Huber.

Mary Nelson is the Clark School business manager.

At Willow Lake, Tia Felberg's three-year term and Randy Nelson's two-year term are up for election.

Melissa Burke is the Willow Lake School business manager.



## The new normal in the United States of America?

Gannon Imberi, left and Maverick Clausen, were out on a bike ride late Monday afternoon, in Clark. The weather is warming up nicely and the forecast for the immediate future is for above normal temperatures.

Concerning the word 'normal', is wearing a mask now the new 'normal' in our country? More and more masks are being worn as everyone wants to stay safe as COVID-19 has kept everything pretty shut down.

Gannon is the son of Adam and Allison Imberi and Maverick is the son of Jeremy and Natalie Clausen.

## Spring has been dry to this point, allowing producers to get into fields

"This week looks promising as the beginning of the planting season for area producers. Everyone's waiting to get over last week's snowfall and for the fields to dry up," stated David Karki - South Dakota State University Extension Agronomist, regarding this spring's planting season. "With the temperatures coming up and windy days we've had lately - after this past weekend we should see some activity in the

fields."

"We are not allowed to travel or work," stated Karki - "I'm working from home doing the online thing - but it's very limited to phone calls and online work. Being semi-shut down until our ban is lifted on May 15, until then I'll be doing my own research but am tied down with our travel ban.

"I haven't heard of any planting going on around here, but have

heard of some planting going on farther south in the Sioux Falls area and some out west with oats and spring wheat. Around Chamberlain a couple weeks ago they were getting some oats planted during that warm spell we had."

South and west it is greening up a little bit he'd heard and expects after this last weekend, with the warm weather and no moisture in the near future forecast, things

should start greening up.

He estimates that 5-10 percent of the state has their spring wheat in - maybe more out west.

"Once they start going - it should go fast. We're in better shape than we were last year at this time."

### Winter wheat

With last year's later harvest, a lot of winter wheat just didn't get planted stated Karki. The last two years have made for some impacted

crop rotations with local producers.

The window to plant small grains was missed last spring and the year before so more corn and soybeans were planted instead.

A lot of corn went into the oat fields for example.

"The near future looks more promising than the last two years spring planting seasons," ended Karki.

### Climate outlook

Heading into April, SDSU Extension State Climatologist Laura Edwards remains cautiously optimistic. "There was a nice melt of snowpack this winter, so as far as flooding risk, we are sitting in a much better situation this year. It's been a pretty dry March. Not to say we can't turn wetter. As far as April

Spring (continued on page 5)



Sully, Archer and Trigg Felberg turned 10 years old on February 10, 2020. Born within minutes of each other, the boys are the sons of Jim and Tia Felberg of Willow Lake. They have a 15-year-old older brother Kaplan. All are home now from attending classes at the Willow Lake School with the pandemic closures.

## Felberg triplets now 10

One rarely comes across triplets in their lifetime, but for the community members of Willow Lake, it happens a lot.

Sully (Sullivan) Reed, Archer Davis and Trigg Slayton were all born on the same day, February 10, 2010. Their parents are Jim and Tia (Michalski) Felberg of Willow Lake.

"I'm the oldest by one minute," explained Sully. He was followed by Archer a minute later and 30 seconds later along came Trigg.

"My mom had three babies," was five-year-old Kaplan Felberg's favorite saying after they were born.

He is the boys' big brother and now 15 years old. The triplets are fourth graders at the Willow Lake School and turned 10 in February.

The Clark County Courier did a feature on the family in the March 31 issue back in 2010. At a month and a half, the babies personalities so far were described as: Trigg - being the most laid back of the three; Sully - being the most active and awake more and more demanding and Archer was in the middle, between laid back and demanding as a baby.

When asked to describe them-

selves now and their favorite things to do, the boys had the following to say.

Sully can often be seen out front shooting hoops as he admits to being 'a little bit athletic' and likes playing basketball, baseball and football. His future plans include working towards being in the NBA, playing basketball professionally. He's a big fan of the Phoenix Suns basketball team. Doing computer work like his father Jim also inter-

Felberg (continued on page 7)

## City of Clark to consider loosening COVID-19 pandemic restrictions

A special meeting of the Clark City Council was held Monday at the Ulylyot Building.

The purpose of the meeting was: First Reading of Ordinance #563 An Ordinance to Repeal Ordinance #562 Public Health Crisis; First Reading of Ordinance #564 An Ordinance Amending Title 3 Health & Sanitation of the Clark Municipal Code Establishing and Creating Nuisances; First Reading of Ordinance #565 Public Health Crisis By Implementing Certain Measures Which Have Been Deemed Necessary by the Governor of the State of South Dakota to Slow the Community Spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19).

In a nutshell, the city is attempting to get back to what things were like prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, in phases. Of course, phase 1 will be a start.

First readings of ordinances become ordinances following the second reading. This second reading council meeting will occur this coming Saturday evening, at 7:00 p.m. According to ordinance, second readings have to be at least five days following the first reading, that is why the Saturday meeting.

Whatever the city council enacts with this second reading, come Saturday, will immediately be in force, as because this is considered an emergency, no time frames are attached, to a starting point.

As the city attempts to get back to normal, a move toward opening up restrictions by phases is what is

being looked at.

In a federal system such as the United States, the federal government is at the top and President Donald Trump's COVID-19 guidelines have been issued. Beneath the federal law are 50 state governments and Gov. Kristi Noem has issued several executive orders.

In South Dakota, Gov. Noem has not 'shuttered' the state, but rather left it up to individual counties and municipalities. It is well known that of the 1,700 or so cases in South Dakota, that three-fourths of them, or more, are in the counties of Minnehaha and Lincoln. Smithfield Foods, a pork processing plant in Sioux Falls, has over 900 cases linked to the company.

The ordinances Clark is looking at, are what most cities, large and small, in the state are looking at and pretty coordinated from city to city.

But, Saturday evening, the Clark City Council will have the ability to pick and choose exactly what businesses will be able to do and not able to do, as many counties and cities in South Dakota are moving in this direction, said city attorney Chad Fjelland.

Sanford Clinic Physicians Assistant Louann Streff, a member of the Clark County COVID-19 task force, was the first to speak Monday and she summarized what the president and governor are both doing and what Phase I would look like through federal and state executive order guidelines.

"We are starting to see a two-week trend whereby stores have checkers wearing masks and counters have built-in glass shields. It's hard to compare Sioux Falls to Clark, as Sioux Falls has a four-day back log of testing, but Gov. Noem has put together a medical task force for the state, as many communities, like Clark, are looking at what the bigger cities are doing and those counties that border the respective counties," said Streff. On Monday, 50 new cases were reported in the state, primarily in Minnehaha and Lincoln counties.

Finance officer Jackie Luttrell then outlined the city's ordinance(s) plan. There were four ordinances and this is a two-stem approach, as Ordinance #563 repeals Ordinance #562 which currently is in place. Ordinance #564 takes care of those abuses and Ordinance #565 uses all Gov. executive orders.

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### WEATHER

Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
April 14.....	29	17	.01
April 15.....	32	17	0
April 16.....	36	17	0
April 17.....	45	23	0
April 18.....	51	26	0
April 19.....	60	29	0
April 20.....	49	34	0
2020 precipitation to date			2.62
2019 precipitation to date			6.86