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Father's Day is Sunday

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State government shores up non-meandered water issue



Governor Dennis Daugaard addresses a joint special session of the South Dakota Legislature regarding recreational water use.

by Dana Hess
Community News Service

In a move hailed as good news for sportsmen and landowners, the S.D. Legislature passed a bill that reopens more than 25 non-meandering lakes to public use.

On Monday, a special session of the Legislature passed HB1001, a bill that calls for non-meandering waters to be open to public use unless otherwise posted as closed.

Non-meandering waters are lakes created by heavy snow and rain in the 1990s. A Supreme Court decision in March called on the Legislature to make rules determining the rights of sportsmen and landowners with regard to the use of non-meandering waters.

A legislative study committee

held hearings this spring, took testimony and visited flooded farmlands. The result of their deliberations was HB1001.

"This is a win-win situation for sportsmen and landowners," said Rep. Larry Rhoden, R-Union Center, the bill's sponsor.

A common theme throughout the debate in the House and the Senate was the respect afforded to landowners through the legislation.

While the bill automatically reopens to public use more than 25 popular lakes that were closed by the Supreme Court injunction, it allows people who own the land beneath those lakes to petition the Game, Fish and Parks Department for their closure. Other landowners on

their property can close the lakes by posting the area with signs and buoys.

Rep. Lee Qualm, R-Platte, who led the interim study committee, urged members of the House to "give landowners some respect and get the lakes back open."

Another recurring theme was the notion that the bill was imperfect but represented the Legislature's best effort.

"This is an imperfect bill," said Rep. Spencer Hawley, D-Brookings. "This is the best we can get for both sides."

The bill passed through the House on a 52-16 vote after three amendment attempts failed.

Some opponents of the bill said that it offered too much power to

landowners while others said it gave landowners too little.

"It gives the rights to property owners," said Rep. Tim Rounds, R-Pierre, referring to landowners' ability to post lakes on their land as closed to public use. "Once we give this right to landowners, we'll never be able to get it back."

In the Senate, Stace Nelson, R-Fulton, said the bill represented a taking of landowners' rights. Nelson called the compromise legislation "a compromise of these peoples' rights. These farmers have been abused for decades."

An amended version of the bill, changing its sunset date from July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2018, passed the Senate on a 26-7 vote.

Sen. Jeff Partridge, R-Rapid City,

said current legislators should deal with the law's sunset date rather than a new batch of lawmakers who come to Pierre after the next election.

"We, the legislators of today, have the right to change it," Partridge said of dealing with the legislation prior to the sunset date. "It will force us to make tweaks to this bill."

The amended version of the bill was accepted by the House. The legislation went on to the governor who earlier in the day said he would sign it right away.

Bill seeks to solve decades-old water problem

The legislation considered during Non-meandered water (continued on page 3)

Lindgren retires from GFP



Scott Lindgren

Following more than 36 years of service with the Department of Game, Fish and Parks, Scott Lindgren recently retired from his position with the state agency.

Lindgren, originally of Kingsley, Iowa, graduated from South Dakota State University with a Bachelor of Science in Wildlife and Fisheries Science and started with SD GFP in 1980, working in Webster as a habitat technician. He served as a Wildlife Conservation Officer in Freeman beginning in 1984 and transferred to Clark in 1987. In

2001 he was promoted to Conservation Officer Supervisor and in 2008 became the Regional Wildlife Manager. He took on his most recent position, as Regional Supervisor for the Wildlife Division, in 2012.

Mike Klosowski, who moved into Lindgren's recently-vacated position with SD GFP, praised Lindgren's performance as a supervisor, saying, "He provided great leadership. He is a very objective person, who was always ready to listen, not only to staff, but also to the public."

"He truly cared about serving the people of South Dakota and wildlife

Lindgren

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WEATHER

Ryan Eggleston - Official Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
June 6	84	59	0
June 7	82	56	0
June 8	80	54	0
June 9	87	62	0
June 10	NA	NA	2.12
June 11	NA	NA	0
June 12	75	60	.12
2017 precipitation to date			6.35
2016 precipitation to date			7.62



Entrance to high school being redone

If one drives by the east entrance to Clark High/Middle School, one sees much construction going on. Or at least there was. Now, with roughly four inches of rain in the last 48 hours, things will have to dry out before the concrete is put back down.

The concrete was defective when poured last summer, Seppanen Construction of Lake Norden and GCC-Consolidated Redi Mix, Inc. of Watertown are replacing the concrete at no expense to the Clark School district.

Clark School will have air conditioning and lighting up-grades before the start of the 2017-18 school year

Fine tuning the Clark School elementary and high school air conditioning/electrical bids was a 90-minute discussion Monday morning at the June meeting of the Clark School Board.

Bids were opened, concerning the HVAC and lighting upgrade, on Thursday, June 8. Active Heating, Inc. bid \$589,800 and Jacobson Electric bid \$579,377. For various reasons, these bids came in higher than Clark superintendent Luanne Warren anticipated.

Lead engineer for the school air conditioning/lighting project, Tra-

vis Sichmiller, Aberdeen, was in attendance at the board meeting, as were Kevin Jacobson of Jacobson Electric, Groton and Huron and Allied Climate Professionals employees.

Sichmiller and Jacobson Electric representatives main quest at the meeting was to get the project cost figure down to \$500,000, one which would be workable for the Clark School Board, as this figure was referred to as a starting point goal.

Sichmiller and Jacobson talked project funding savings ability, without changing the scope of the

project.

Several key elements were discussed, including: keeping the elementary and high school projects together, instead of fragmenting the two into two projects, which means only one would get done this summer; not going with Johnson Controls for a service contract, but rather staying with the project contractor, Jacobson Electric; fixing the electrical panel at the high school and the gas line panel location at the elementary; finding why the elementary is using more energy every night for two hours and ulti-

mately working to trim the project budget to \$500,000.

As the school board and contractors were working to get the price down, Sichmiller felt it a better option to work on change orders with the total amount rather than re-bidding either the elementary part, the high school section, or both.

Again, some small, some fairly significant savings will be in the plan to get the price from \$579,000 to \$500,000, but Sichmiller, Jacob-

Clark School (continued on page 3)



The pool was packed on Wednesday

The Horace Bennett Memorial swimming pool in Clark was a popular place last Wednesday with a great crowd in attendance. With 82° temperatures and humidity making it feel 'sticky' outside, the cool water was a refreshing respite.

Dawn Clayton is the pool manager and pool hours are 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. and 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. daily. Swimming lessons begin on June 19 with the second session starting July 5. The pool phone number is 532-3155.

Phyllis Schrag loves small town tales

Master story-teller in action at Heritage Day

Phyllis Schrag is a professional story-teller and one of the finest. A South Dakota native, now living in Iowa, after her presentation on Clark County Heritage Day, she was off to Pierre, then Philip, then Custer, then Deadwood, all this week.

The title 'Baseball, Preachers & Funerals' was about Schrag's childhood memories, about the middle of the last century, right after World War II.

Chancellor, where Schrag's dad owned the hardware store, was a typical South Dakota small town of that era. Located in Turner County, about 15 miles southwest of Sioux Falls, "We had six families with children in town, everyone else were farm folk," she said and of course playing baseball was the favorite pastime.

The field where they played and the owner of that baseball field in town, Miss Deena Folken played

an important role in Schrag's field-good, or rather feel-good story.

The preacher part and funeral part are integral parts of the tale, but much of that will be omitted to get to the ending, although the preacher section and funeral stories were quite entertaining.

The two baseball teams in Chancellor played by the youngsters were the Yankees and Brooklyn. Schrag played for the Yankees. It was the World Series.

Her teammate that this story features is Lyndon B. Johnson. "Lyndie couldn't see very well and was of mixed race, residing in a foster home in Chancellor.

"With two outs and the bases loaded, Lyndie was practice swinging and the ball hit his bat. He takes off the wrong way, after three missed throws he comes sliding into

Heritage Day (continued on page 3)



Phyllis Schrag says that if you have to grow up, it might as well be in a small town. The South Dakota Humanities Scholar presented the nostalgic 'Baseball, Preachers and Funerals', Sunday at the Clark County Historical Society's Heritage Day.