

School is out, but board has many things to act upon

Clark business owner Kyle Gaikowski attended Monday's June meeting of the Clark School Board to talk naming rights for the youth softball/baseball field, and concession/bathroom building, just south of the Clark High/Middle School.

Gaikowski briefly went over all of the work that has been done to this facility, with Gaikowski taking the lead in initiating and doing a lot of these improvements.

The chain link fence is new; cement work and a roof has been put in place for the dugouts; LED lights have been installed in the concession stand; the grass has been moved in closer; the 12U players painted the bleachers; the scoreboard has been moved in from Dakota Style Field.

To do this work, Gaikowski reported that \$71,000 has been raised and \$69,000 spent. The Westside owner then talked of his 'wish list' of things remaining to be done, including epoxy of floors, and paint, both to the kitchen/bathroom; irrigation of the outfield and aluminum bleachers.

Seventy percent of the \$71,000 raised, \$50,000, has come from Dacotah Bank - Clark. Other sponsorships are Community Oil, City of Clark, the Lee Schlagel Memorial and Westside Implement.

Regarding naming rights, superintendent Travis Ahrens was quick to note that no one was saying no, it's just that a formal process is necessary going forward.

Said Ahrens, "We've recently entered into a five-year lease with the City of Clark regarding this property, and when giving naming rights

to public property, we need a formal process."

The superintendent explained that the school board building and grounds representatives needed to meet with city representatives. Combined approval would require a joint resolution, signed by officials from both entities.

The school board tabled this action, wanting documentation.

In other business:

* After a five minute executive session, the school board approved two open enrollment applications.

* Ahrens gave a detailed custodial update during his superintendent's report.

* Capital outlay plans are being finalized, said Ahrens, with costs going up weekly.

* The school still has the technology position open.

* The 2022-2023 budget hearing will be at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, July 11, 2022.

* The board joined ASBSD for the 2022-2023 school year with dues at a rate of \$1,170.94. The dues will be paid after July 1, 2022.

* The board signed a contract for the 2022-2023 school to join SWWC Service Cooperative, S.D. purchasing services.

* The board approved administration negotiation packages for the 2022-2023 school year, including: MS/HS principal & SPED director, \$7,500 increase; business manager, \$4,500 increase; superintendent, \$15,000 increase.

* The following items were declared surplus: floor scrubber with an electrical problem, two sections of HJ Pro-Pit, 42 computer towers,

bleacher puller, 24 maroon chairs that are cracked, six printers in varied conditions, 32 FACS textbooks and 30 computer monitors.

* The Southeast Interactive Long Distance Learning agreement was approved.

* Clark School District's Return-to-School safety plan for the 2022-2023 school year was approved.

* No school board election is necessary in 2022. Incumbent Robert Steffen will begin a three-year term in July.

* Alicia Turnquist was hired as the Elementary Music/5th grade Band teacher for the 2022-2023 school year with a salary of \$42,500.

* Shelby Rosenau was hired as an Elementary paraprofessional and Dance coach for the 2022-2023 school year with a salary of \$13.50/hour and a dance stipend of \$3,625.

* Christina Flora's resignation as middle school Special Education teacher was approved.

* Harrison Wookey was hired as Assistant Varsity Football coach for the 2022-2023 school year with a \$3,536 stipend.

* Dave Severson was hired as Head Varsity Football coach for the 2022-2023 school year with a \$4,565 stipend.

* Angela Graves was hired as an elementary paraprofessional for the 2022-2023 school year at \$13.50/hour.

* Dave Dohmann was hired as JH Football coach for the 2022-2023 school year with a \$2,376 stipend.

* Carly Woodring was hired as fifth grade elementary teacher for the 2022-2023 school year with a salary of \$42,500.

Former Miss South Dakota gives back to annual pageant

The 75th Miss South Dakota and Miss Teen South Dakota Outstanding Teen competitions were June 2-4 in Brookings.

Gwen Resick-Rennich, the 1973 Miss South Dakota State University and 1973 Miss South Dakota, co-emceed the 75th Gala event last Friday. Thirty former Miss South Dakotas came for this year's Miss South Dakota competition.

Many of the former Miss South Dakotas performed at the event.

"It was a great night in Brookings and the audience at the Gala was really rocking!" said Resick-Rennich.

Resick-Rennich is a 1971 Clark High School graduate, the daughter of the late Elwood and Muriel Resick.

After graduating from C.H.S., Resick-Rennich attended SDSU, majoring in speech and theater. It was one of her speech professors, Ray Peterson, a producer of the SDSU and Miss South Dakota pageants, who urged her to compete for the SDSU title.

"After enough persuasion, I thought why not?" Gwen won the title of Miss SDSU and went on to win the Miss South Dakota title the same year at the age of 20. "It was a wonderful experience. Competing in the Miss America pageant and walking down that Atlantic City runway is something I had dreamed about since I was a little girl. I remember sitting on the living room carpet in my pajamas and curlers in my hair eating a Hershey almond candy bar and drinking a coke, thinking one day I'm going to walk down that runway and having no idea how I was going to make that happen." Gwen said laughing.

Resick-Rennich says, "One of the biggest changes in the Miss South Dakota competition is that there no longer is a swimsuit competition. This has been replaced by a social impact initiative and this year's winner chose 'childhood cancer awareness'. Other topics in 2022 were mental health, trafficking, addiction, and advocating for educators, just to name a few."



Gwen Resick-Rennich, right, is shown interviewing Miss South Dakota 2021 Kaitlin O'Neill, at the recent Miss South Dakota pageant held the first weekend in June in Brookings. Resick-Rennich emceed the Miss South Dakota Gala Event. It was held the evening before the crowning of the new Miss South Dakota 2022.

The Miss America organization is the largest women's scholarship foundation in the country. Six thousand women compete each year at the state and local level. Only fifty of these women go to the Miss America Pageant.

This year's Miss South Dakota 2022, Hunter Widvey of Huron, won an \$8,000 scholarship to the college of her choice as well as a \$1,000 award for talent and an additional \$1,000 for interview. She also took

home a \$750 STEM scholarship.

Miss America wins \$100,000. The new Miss South Dakota also wins a 2022 Crowning package consisting of wardrobe allowance, gas allowance, and her paid trip to the Miss America Pageant.

This is where Gwen Resick-Rennich's contribution to the Miss South Dakota pageant comes in.

Miss S.D. (continued on page 12)

Incumbents do well in Clark County primary

Area voters headed to the polls Tuesday for the primary election. All in all, the incumbents ruled the day with Clark County voters. The winners will appear on the ballot for the general election in November.

In the District 4 race for State Senate, Stephanie Sauder, 330 votes, and incumbent Fred Deutsch, 237 votes, won over Adam Grimm, 155 votes, and Val Rausch, 110 votes. On a district level, Sauder received 40% of the votes and Deutsch 28%.

U.S. Senator John Thune beat

fellow Republicans Bruce Whalen and Mark Mowry. Thune ended up with 426 votes to Whalen's 139 and Mowry's 33. Statewide, Thune had 73%, Whalen 20% and Mowry 7%.

Sitting Republican U.S. Representative Dusty Johnson topped Taffy Howard 378 to 212 votes. Statewide - Johnson 61% and Howard 39%. And Governor Kristi Noem defeated challenger Steven Haugaard 499 to 103 votes in the county, with 76% for Noem statewide.

Amendment C was rejected 571 votes to 231 in the county, with

69% of voters saying 'no' on a state level. This means voters opposed requiring a three-fifths (60%) super majority vote for the approval of certain tax increases or state appropriations, meaning such measures will still be adopted by a simple majority vote.

Overall, local voter turn out was fair with 31% of Clark County voters going to the polls (822 out of 2,694 active voters cast ballots.)

All statewide results are still unofficial. See full Clark County results on page 3.



First Gentleman of S.D. visits with Garden City residents

Garden City needs a new place to house their four firetrucks. Community members and firemen met with Gov. Kristi Noem's husband, Bryon, on Thursday.

"I will be calling Rep. Dusty Johnson's office to see what grant monies on the federal level are available," said the first gentleman.

Bryon Noem told the Garden City delegation that he loves South Dakota's small towns and loves meeting 'real people' who reside in these towns.

The Garden City Fire Department needs a building by this fall and have set things in motion to make this become a reality. "We are looking at borrowing a lot of money," said Garden City fireman Jason Fos-

ter. That's where Noem's visit comes in, to see if any state monies or even federal dollars are available.

"I will take this back to the state and plug it in and see what happens," Noem told the group.

After this picture was taken, Noem visited the Garden City Opera House, shooting a basketball free-throw at the Opera House and at the hoop on Main Street by the Fire Department building.

Pictured, left to right, are: Kyle Stern, Mark Foster, Scott Hansen, Jay Foster, David Waples, Russ Foster, Jack Hansen, Joyce Hansen, Marilyn Foster, Rod Foster, Jason Foster, Scott Campbell, Bryon Noem and Ed Luckhurst.

Wet weather forcing S.D. farmers to delay or cut back on planting crops

Kylie Carlson South Dakota News Watch

Recent rains and flooding have forced many farmers in the eastern half of South Dakota to delay getting crops into the ground, and some are now well behind the typical planting schedule or have had to cut back the acreage they are able to plant.

The heavy rains during a long-range drought have left farm fields soaked and inaccessible to farm equipment. Some recent storms have damaged critical planting equipment. The resulting delay in planting has some farmers scrambling to maintain crop production and, consequently, their anticipated income.

As a result, some farmers who suffer crop or revenue losses will have to lean heavily on crop insurance and federal relief funding to make it through the 2022 planting season.

The recent storms in the southeast and the excess moisture in the northeast have backed producers into a corner in regard to deciding when, or even if, to plant a summer 2022 crop. If they wait too long, the growing season will be cut back and producing a fall crop may become out of the question.

Farmers suffered a big setback on May 12 when a high-intensity storm known as a derecho not only dropped excessive moisture but damage machinery needed to plant a good crop.

"That really threw a wrench in a lot of people's plans because we were already late planting," said Scott VanderWal, a Volga farmer who is president of the South Dakota Farm Bureau. "That storm

came and destroyed a lot of grain bins, center-pivot irrigators, buildings, livestock facilities, a tremendous amount of damage. We had to spend a couple of nice days cleaning up messes instead of planting."

Despite the late start and intermittent rains that kept him out of the fields, VanderWal was able to get his soybeans in the ground on time.

Many northeastern South Dakota farmers weren't so lucky. VanderWal said. Because of the flooding and excess moisture that the region has received, crop farmers will most likely rely on a portion of their insurance policies known as "prevent-planting" options.

Prevented-planting provisions are found in crop insurance policies and allow planters to collect payments for their crops that they weren't able to plant as planned due to an insured cause. In South Dakota this year, flooding, excess moisture, drought, and natural disasters are insured causes.

"In 2019, there was an awful lot

Weather delays farmers (continued on page 12)

WEATHER			
Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer			
	HI	LO	PR
June 7.....	69	55	0.10
June 8.....	68	55	0
June 9.....	74	54	0
June 10.....	74	54	0
June 11.....	77	58	0.17
June 12.....	83	62	0
June 13.....	88	65	0.29
2022 precipitation to date	10.32		
2021 precipitation to date	8.06		