



The End of an Era

▲ Dr. Harvey Spieker has been in Clark for 45 years

Dr. Harvey Spieker, left, has officially retired as of last Thursday. The Clark dentist, who started his Clark practice in 1976 and practiced orthodontics the last five years, will no longer be seen like in this pic-

ture. Dr. Spieker, patient Andrew Peterson and Clark Family Dental employee Karrie Moeller are shown, as Dr. Spieker adjusts Peterson's braces.

County commissioners approve medical cannabis ordinance

A special meeting of the Clark County Board of Commissioners Tuesday, June 22, was held for the passage of the second reading of Ordinance 2-21, regarding medical marijuana.

The third paragraph of the ordinance reads: "WHEREAS, medical cannabis state laws under SDCL 34-20G are effective July 1, 2021. The South Dakota Department of Health shall promulgate rules pursuant to chapter 1-26 not later than October 29, 2021, as defined by SDCL 34-20G-72. During the time between July 1, 2021 and potentially as late as October 29, 2021, local units of government will not yet know standards for medical cannabis and will not be able to adequately assess the local zoning and licensing requirements necessary to approve local permits and to better ensure applicants have a more predictable permitting process and avoid stranded investments."

And the second to the last paragraph of this ordinance reads: "A medical cannabis establishment desiring to operate in the County shall be required to apply for a per-

mit and/or license from the County. Applications for a local permit and/or license to operate a medical cannabis establishment, as defined by SDCL 34-20G-1, shall not be accepted until the South Dakota Department of Health has promulgated regulations as required by SDCL 30-20G-72. Any application received prior to such regulations being promulgated shall be denied.

Because this has emergency status, the ordinance becomes effective immediately, but one must understand that the state has the upper hand in this jurisdiction and the state has yet to officially act, meaning that nothing will happen until the end of October regarding medical cannabis.

The South Dakota Department of Health is hosting a Medical Cannabis Telephone Town Hall. All interested South Dakotans can listen in Tuesday, June 28 at 5:00 p.m. or 6:30 p.m. Register by going to <https://tthm.wufoo.com/forms/medical-cannabis-public-input-session-signup/>

The public will have the opportunity to ask questions; provide their

feedback and listen to the latest updates on the implementation of IM-26.

Burn ban

At this time no burn ban is in effect in Clark County. The next regular meeting of the board of commissioners is Tuesday, July 6 and as Emergency Manager David Lewis is watching this matter closely, a burn ban could go into effect at that time.

New custodian

Jimmy Marx is the new Clark County

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WEATHER			
Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer			
	HI	LO	PR
June 15.....	86	61	0
June 16.....	88	62	0
June 17.....	97	67	0
June 18.....	82	60	0
June 19.....	89	55	0
June 20.....	81	58	.01
June 21.....	71	49	.03
2021 precipitation to date	8.10		
2020 precipitation to date	8.58		

Worker shortage in South Dakota could raise wages but slow economic growth

Danielle Ferguson

South Dakota News Watch

South Dakota businesses in the midst of a vigorous post-pandemic economic recovery are scrambling to attract new employees from what has become a limited pool of potential workers.

The vast number of open positions and reduced available workforce are the latest wrinkles in the state economy caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and have led to a number of unexpected outcomes.

Some experts say the labor shortage could ultimately lead to better pay and benefits for South Dakota workers, who on average make some of the lowest wages in the nation.

Meanwhile, one development official said the imbalance could hold back long-term growth and economic expansion in the state and prevent South Dakota from fully engaging in the post-pandemic re-

covery.

"It's hindering South Dakota's growth," said Tom Johnson, director of Elevate Rapid City, a regional economic-development agency.

Throughout the state, businesses cannot expand if they can't find workers to fill open positions or if industries related to construction or development are unable to build new homes or businesses in a timely manner.

"It affects rural areas and suburban areas; this is an issue across the spectrum," Johnson said. "You cannot find any company not struggling to find folks at this point."

Employers are offering sign-on incentives, wage increases and additional benefits to attract hesitant employees. Many working people, especially in the bustling tourism and food service industries, are working overtime and risking burn-out to keep up with the demand. And most customers — from those

seeking car repairs or home improvements to those just trying to get a quick meal — are experiencing longer wait times for goods and services.

The need for workers is so high, the state is targeting eligible students, people who are in retirement and people who travel the country living in recreational vehicles to join the workforce, said South Dakota Department of Labor Secretary Marcia Hultman.

Hultman said efforts are specifically focused on funneling workers into the seasonal employment and tourism sectors, industries that already see an increased need each spring. Those sectors are experiencing exceptional growth this year as out-of-state visitors flock to the state as worries over the coronavirus have ebbed.

Hultman suspects the shortage will lead to increased wages across all sectors. Anecdotally, she's seen

FFA Greenhouse to be located northwest of school Field House

At the June meeting of the Clark School Board, held Tuesday, June 15, the board approved moving forward with the FFA Greenhouse project.

The Greenhouse location which was chosen will be in the far northwest location of the Clark High School Sports Complex, northwest of the Field House.

The two locations under consideration were option A, the one northwest of the Field House, which was chosen and option B, in the northeast corner of the school, just off the ag shop.

Prior to the location approval, superintendent-to-be Travis Ahrens listed pros and cons of both the proj-

ect and the project location.

Presently, the cost of the Greenhouse project will be approximately \$63,000 with \$45,000 in the 2020-21 school budget. The materials and setup construction cost, in 2020, was listed at \$43,331 for materials and \$18,000 in construction.

Board member Greg Marx was the only one which opposed this project, noting that the school would need a drainage variance from the city in moving forward with the Greenhouse.

"I'm nervous about this total amount," said Marx. "Plus I am not sure that the excitement for this project is still there," he said.

FFA adviser Matti Boomgaarden

attended the meeting and she has the support of both the outgoing superintendent Luanne Warren and incoming superintendent Travis Ahrens.

"I am to the point that I'm frustrated," said Boomgaarden before the vote, as when she was hired three years ago, she began this Greenhouse project promotion. "I need the board's support," she said.

Warren noted that this is an innovative project and wanted the board to see it through. Said Ahrens, "The Greenhouse project fits well in our technical programming, which includes FFA. It is a nice offering

School board
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City gives medical marijuana ordinance first reading

▲ Water restrictions to go into effect

A special meeting of the Clark City Council was called for Monday, June 21 at the Community Center of the Ullyot Building. The primary purpose of this meeting was to give First Reading to the medical marijuana ordinance. #566.

Last fall, IM-26, the medical marijuana initiative was passed by South Dakota voters and will go into effect July 1, 2021. The State of South Dakota has until the end of October to figure out the details of disbursing and allowing medical marijuana. This ordinance, that the city of Clark gave first reading

to on Monday night, is similar, or exactly the same in every county and municipality throughout South Dakota, at least in theory.

The city council will meet again next Monday, June 28, to give final passage of this medical marijuana ordinance.

Water restrictions

Effective immediately, the Clark City Council has placed restrictions on the use of watering. Because of very dry conditions and water availability being low, plus the Clark water tower to be painted, no watering

will be allowed daily between 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Those who live north of US Highway 212 will be allowed to water on even numbered days. Those who reside south of 212 may water on odd numbered days.

This ordinance approval led to discussion about whether or not to have community fireworks on July 4. The council decided to go ahead with 4th of July fireworks at the golf course, but the fireworks

City council
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Willow Lake Swimming Pool continues with upgrades

The Willow Lake Swimming Pool opened last Wednesday and co-managers Christina Kannegieter and Allison Kannegieter said over 50 people showed up to swim the first day.

Because of new technology, the opening of the swimming pool was a little later than planned, but now that the pool is open, "everything is good," said the co-managers.

A number of pool upgrades have been added. New sand filters were installed before the pool opened this spring. Last fall, after the pool closed, a PVC liner membrane for the pool was put in, as well as a new deck surface by the pool and bath house.

Mechanical upgrades include an ACU Drive System with (water) flow monitor.

The city of Willow Lake, with Heidi Madsen as finance officer, applied and received matching (grant) funds, which covered much of the pool upgrade expenses. The Lions Club, Carnival Club, along with community donations and support have helped make the swimming



Christina, left and Allison Kannegieter are the co-managers of the Willow Lake Swimming Pool this summer. This is the third consecutive year that both have worked at the swimming pool.

pool a summer showcase for southern Clark County.

Allison Kannegieter, the lead WSI certified lifeguard is in charge of swimming lessons this summer.

Other lifeguards include Maggie Hovde, Kaplan Felberg, Jada Burke and Matti Burke. The three pool

Willow Lake
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Jordan Hartshorn, owner and operator of Hart2Hart, Inc., which operates 17 McDonald's restaurants in South Dakota, Iowa and Minnesota, said people may be getting more comfortable with going back to work amid lower COVID-19 infection rates in South Dakota.

Photo: Danielle Ferguson, South Dakota News Watch

Worker shortage
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