

Clark School Board enters into computer technology contract with Expetec

▲ Steffen re-elected president, Fjelland re-elected vice president

July is the month when school boards in South Dakota start anew. The fiscal year begins as does a 'new school board' year.

Robert Steffen was sworn in for a three-year term, as he ran unopposed in 2022. Steffen was re-elected as the Clark School Board president, unanimously, at Monday's July meeting. Todd Fjelland was re-elected vice president.

With five weeks remaining until the 2022-23 school year begins, the Clark school was still without a computer technology person on Monday.

Clark superintendent Travis Ahrens explained the situation to the board, information technology instructor Sam Williams has moved on to Tri-Valley, and no qualified applicants have applied for the position.

Bryan German, owner of Expetec, a technology management service provider, out of Aberdeen, was then introduced by Ahrens. Expetec is contracted currently by Ipswich,

Edmunds Central, Doland and Wolsey-Wessington school districts.

Said German, "You'd be hiring an entity, not an individual." This would not be an 'in-house' operation, but rather through a Clark School chain of contact.

The contract would be for one year, costing \$3,952.00 per month.

"Ideally, we were hoping to hire a qualified information technologist, but that didn't happen. This level of service is the next best option," said Ahrens.

The school will have to handle such things as assemblies, concerts and ballgames through administration and staff.

The board approved Expetec, and they will begin immediately getting ready for the 2022-23 school year.

The Clark School Board, approved the Dacotah Bank naming rights, as did the City of Clark, a 10-year resolution, for the youth field just south of the high/middle school. Sponsorship signs are in

place at the field.

Prior to the July board meeting, Clark School business manager Mary Nelson detailed the 2022-23 school budget hearing. Nelson went through all six fund balance, in detail. The general fund balance will be \$4,302,438. A further budget feature story will appear this summer in an upcoming issue of the *Clark County Courier*.

New elementary principal Jon Redmond was at Monday's meeting. No motions were made after a half hour executive session for personnel reasons.

Annual routine business

The school board meeting was set for the second Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the high school library. Dacotah Bank was designated as depository for all district funds. Clark County Courier is the legal newspaper for the school district and the continuation of the

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Area lakes refilled Thursday with two-hour downpour

▲ 2.20" of rain made new lakes appear

It's been awhile since Clark has received 2.25 inches of rain at one time, especially during daytime hours.

Last Thursday, a downpour started during the Clark-Willow Lake versus Wessington Springs baseball game, and then nothing happened until after lunch.

When it started raining again, the two plus inches

of rain came in two plus hours or so.

By late afternoon, rain was standing where it never does, such as in front of the Brown and Wellnitz residences on Pebble Beach Drive, on the north end of Clark.

Playing in the water are Ewan Henning and Ben Badten.

Sixty-six block water project planned for 2023-24

▲ Meeting tonight on conditional use permit for automated car wash

Tonight, Wednesday, July 13, is a special meeting of the Clark City Council, acting as a Board of Adjustment. The council will be deciding upon a conditional use permit taken out by Joe Herr, Jason Steen and Jerome Nesheim for an automated car wash just east of Dollar General on the north side of U.S. Highway 212.

The regular July meeting of the Clark City Council was held Wednesday, July 6.

Bob Babcock, an engineer with Helms and Associates, Aberdeen, was in attendance at the July meeting to accept the signed contract for \$7,857,370 drinking water system improvements project, in Clark. This project will cover approximately 66 blocks, all area south of U.S. Highway 212. Some blocks, yet to be chosen will be done north of 212, yet to be chosen. The work will be done in 2023 and 2024, but Babcock said that Helms and Associates trucks will be very visible this fall.

A new meter system will be coming to coincide with this water project. It has not been decided at this time if the city will install these

new meters or if an outside company will be contracted for the new water meters. Helms and Associates' engineer Brandon Smid will be in charge of this almost \$8,000,000 water project.

Troy VanDusen talked dispatching services through the Watertown Police Department. The 911 service center will have a new contract beginning in 2023. The county and the city will decide what option will work best. The cost to the city will be somewhere between \$4,000 and \$7,000.

Open containers will be allowed on Saturday, August 6, during Potato Days, in a four-block area, specified in the city minutes public notice.

The city council also approved a resolution for Dacotah Bank naming rights, for 10 years at the youth baseball/softball field, south of the school. The Clark School did the same thing at their meeting, Monday. So the youth baseball field is now Dacotah Bank Field, with the \$50,000 donation.

In other business:

◆ No executive session was necessary.

◆ Kyle Gaikowski, prior to the Dacotah Bank naming of the youth ball field, gave a rundown of all the improvements made to the diamond, dugouts and concession areas. Seventy-five thousand dollars have been raised with major contributors being Dacotah Bank, Clark Lions, Lee Schlagel Memorial and Westside Implement.

◆ Two dead cottonwood trees will be removed a block south of U.S. Highway 212 just west of S. Cloud Street.

◆ The city retention pond area will not be available for the clay target area.

◆ Werdel Construction was the low bidder of \$4,920 for concrete work on N. Commercial Street.

◆ With school starting this fall, N. Idaho Street, on the west side of the elementary will be a one-way street, heading north, between 7:30-8:30 a.m. and 2:30-3:30 p.m. on week days.

◆ The dump will remain closed for the time being. The dumpsite attendant no longer works for the city.



The Greater Clark Area Foundation meets regularly. Shown at the Wednesday morning meeting at the Lookout Bar and Grill are left to right, vice president Tom LaBrie, Chad Fjelland, president Gayle Wookey, secretary Diane Varilek, Joyce Helkenn, Greg Furness, student member Summer Seefeldt and David Warkenthien. Absent were treasurer Susan Fjelland and Nicole Nelson.

Greater Clark Area Foundation is an integral part of the Community

The original thought of the organizing of the Greater Clark Area Community Foundation (GCACF) was a philanthropic intent to retain assets to benefit the community, rather than see those resources leave.

It was that thought by GCACF vice president Tom LaBrie, to tell what the Foundation is all about and why it is so important, when asked at last Wednesday's meeting.

The GCACF meets monthly with Gayle Wookey as president and is very involved in helping with community needs, projects, scholarships and donations.

Starting with a \$1,000 contribution from Dacotah Bank, the Greater Clark Area Community Foundation (GCACF) began in 2004.

So, in 18 years the fund value has grown to \$2,400,000 and grants are available annually in the amount of \$89,000.

Original foundation board members included: Tom LaBrie, Randy Gruenwald, Jerry Hartley, Joyce Helkenn, Greg Furness, Chad Fjelland, Dave Warkenthien, Bob Schmidt, Sandy Luke and Bob Bjerke.

er spent. It is held in perpetuity and invested at the SD Community Foundation. A guaranteed rate of return is 4.5% comes back to be granted for area projects through an application process. The main goal of any foundation is to continuously raise more 'principal' funds."

The name Greater Clark Area Community Foundation was carefully chosen as it was and still is the goal that the foundation will include all of Clark County.

Grants have been made in Clark, Raymond, Bradley, Willow Lake, Vienna and Garden City.

The Foundation consists of donations that make up several funds. As of 1-1-2022 the total is \$2,417,079.

The General Fund of \$2,708,000 includes: John Suzanka Scholarship Fund; Lynn Arne Scholarship Fund; Clark Alumni Scholarship Fund; Barb Jenkins Scholarship Fund; VFW Scholarship Fund and the Harold Nipe Scholarship Fund. The Jean Christenson Flower/Beautification Fund - \$24,718. Ag and Health Science Fund (anonymous donor) - \$140,288. Dale Peckham Memorial Fund - \$35,819.

Grants distributed in 2021 to-

taled \$37,375. Some of which were: Garden City firemen were given \$10,000 to help build a new firehall; \$2,500 was given to Choose Clark County to help local main street businesses beautify their outside appearance; \$1,500 was given to the Willow Lake Area Advancement Committee to help pay for a new refrigerator/freezer; Clark Softball Park was given \$5,000 to help improve the park/concession stand; Clark Plymouth Church was given \$2,500 to help put in a new sidewalk; \$1,000 was given to help with the lo-

Foundation
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WEATHER			
Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer			
	HI	LO	PR
July 5.....	85	67	0
July 6.....	82	68	0.16
July 7.....	83	67	0
July 8.....	81	64	2.20
July 9.....	83	65	0
July 10.....	84	65	0
July 11.....	86	63	0.12
2022 precipitation to date	14.58		
2021 precipitation to date	11.25		



Clark FCCLA Senior Quiz Bowl team wins again!

The Clark FCCLA Senior Quiz Bowl team won the National Championship for the second year in a row! Pictured with their first place plaque, left to right, are Madison Pickrel, Tyler O'Neill, Macy Steen and Teagan Ortberg. Chad Kolden is kneeling in front giving two thumbs up.

More pictures and information on the National Leadership Conference on page 3.