



Clark County property tax increase connected to road improvements

The Clark County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution which establishes a base property tax increase of \$.90 per \$1,000 taxable valuation starting with the calendar year 2015, taxes payable in 2016. The action was taken during the July 7 meeting of the commissioners and passed unanimously.

Richard Reints, chairman of the commission, said that he knew that this would not be a popular decision (to raise taxes to gain revenue). "We

all pay taxes and we know that the highway budget has been stressed, over-stressed, for too long a period of time and the need is definitely there to improve our roads. None of us wants to pay more in taxes, but we all want to have good roads to drive on."

This \$.90 per \$1,000 taxable valuation will raise \$800,000 and will strictly go to the highway budget, informed the board, Tuesday morning at their July 21 meeting.

At Tuesday's meeting, the commissioners also approved increasing the county wheel tax from \$4 per wheel to \$5 per wheel with a maximum of 12 wheels. The wheel tax increase and the increase in property tax of up to \$1.20 per \$1,000 in taxable valuation were options put in place by the State Legislature's passage of Senate Bill 1. This bill went into effect on July 1, 2015.

It was noted at the meeting that semis will be paying on 12 wheels

now, instead of four and that three percent of the wheel tax (divided by road miles) will now be going to the towns and seven percent of the wheel tax will be going to the county townships.

The recent actions taken by the Clark County Board of Commissioners are intended to help assure that Clark County has the ability to maintain and continue to make improvements on roads and bridges to declare that all of the citizens

are able to travel safely, according to commissioner Francis Hass. "Federal funding keeps getting cut and state funding relies on federal funds as well. We've gotten too far behind and now the burden has been put on the local level to try to catch up," he said.

Hass then explained that county (asphalt) roads need to be sealed every four to five years and a new mat needs to be applied to each respective road every 20 years. "We're not

even close to that."

Hass noted how expensive both oil and sealing oil have been, to provide maintenance on roads. He reported the cost of hot mix in 2013 was \$69.75 a ton; in 2014 it was \$70.25 a ton and in 2015 it was \$70.00 a ton. Sealing oil in 2013 was \$644.65 a ton; in 2014 it was \$699.65 a ton; in 2015 it was \$662.95 a ton.

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Preserving and restoring native grasslands is part of the Kopriva Angus commitment to conservation. This effort contributed to Kopriva Angus, operated by, left to right, Angela (Kopriva) and Kerry Brown, Jim and Karen Kopriva and Lee Kopriva, being recognized by the regional Environmental Stewardship Award Program.

Kopriva ranch honored for stewardship effort

Kopriva Angus and the Kopriva family of Raymond, were honored with one of seven regional Environmental Stewardship Award Program (ESAP) awards. The honorees, announced during the 2015 Cattle Industry Summer Conference, were recognized for their outstanding stewardship practices. This year's regional winners will compete for the national award, which will be announced during the 25th anniversary celebration in January 2016.

Kopriva Angus is owned and operated by Jim and Karen Kopriva and their children, Angela and Lee. This commercial and registered Black Angus and hay operation is located in northeast South Dakota on the eastern edge of the James River valley and the western edge of the Coteau Hills. Jim

and Lee are responsible for ranch operations which include 370 cows and approximately 2,700 acres. The Koprivas are focused on a sustainable approach to their family cattle

Kopriva
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WEATHER				
Ryan Eggleston - Official Weather Observer				
	HI	LO	PR	
July 14	82	61	0	
July 15	81	65	0	
July 16	80	64	0	
July 17	87	61	0	
July 18	77	56	.06	
July 19	84	57	0	
July 20	75	52	0	
2015 precipitation to date	11.13"			
2014 precipitation to date	10.82"			

"Piecemakers send hope to Africa"

▲ United Methodist Women sew many items

"There's no such thing as too much material," laughs Lael Smith, one of the 'Piecemakers' sewing group at the United Methodist Church in Clark.

The coffee pot is on and the more the merrier is the thinking of the group as they sew up donated material and recycle clothing to make quilts, lap quilts, prayer pillows and most recently dresses and shorts for children in Africa.

"We really appreciate it when material comes in to us, even old curtains work well, especially for the dresses. We can use the same hem for the dresses," stated Carleton Hanson, a member of the group.

"We can really be creative with the dresses," said Smith. "If there's a stain we can't get out, we'll put a pocket there."

"And we can use rick rack and lace to decorate with," said Pat Seefeldt. "It's a good way to use up material that is not suitable for the quilts we make."

"We always make a twin size quilt for our church members graduating seniors every spring. We've done that since 1998. Before that we made quilts for our Missions in our sewing group."

This is the second batch of dresses and shorts that have been boxed up, about 60 in all, to be sent to Africa to provide relief to orphaned children in the remote villages. Besides Africa, the clothing is also distributed in Cambodia, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, the Philippines and in the Appalachian Mountains and in our state as well.

The Little Dresses for Africa founder Rachel O'Neill states that little girl orphans are the most devalued and abused in their culture. These dresses give them hope. "All



Little Dresses for Africa and Little Britches for Africa are what the United Methodist Women are sewing nowadays in their sewing group. The group meets on Thursdays at 1:30 p.m. at the United Methodist Church and are called 'The Piecemakers'.

are also on their list of items made out of donated material, old clothes and even curtains.

Shown above with the dresses and shorts are Evelyn Heiden, Lael Smith, Carleton Hanson, Marge Johnson and Pat Seefeldt.

your beautiful little dresses out there are planting in the hearts of little girls that they are worthy. You are changing the world, one little dress at a time."

To date over 560,000 dresses have been donated to the organization. Jeanette Kaufman, member of the club, brought the idea to the club two years ago. Carleton Hanson added that ladies were also sewing dresses in Arizona when she visited.

Word came back that the orphaned boys were saying 'what about us?', so the Little Britches program was started later. Nancy

Zieman, from Nancy's Notions in Wisconsin, provides a pattern online for making shorts out of a used T-shirt.

The Piecemakers sent 40 dresses and 20 shorts in their box last year, in four different sizes. Using cooler fabrics - not 100% polyester for example is preferred. They send their dresses to Nancy's Notions and they send them on from there.

Members of the group not pictured above are Wanda Bethke, Kaufman, Delma Wallen and Carolyn Harding. Wallen does all the machine quilting on the quilts made, in her home.

"We do an assembly line kind of a deal," said Smith, one of several ladies who keep an extra sewing machine set up at the church at all times in their sewing room.

"We all sew, but we don't bring our machines here," continued Seefeldt. "Three machines are here all of the time, mine, Lael's and Jeanette's."

Get well prayer pillows are a newer item they make, an idea Pastor Mark Tracy brought to the group. Thirteen ties are on the pillow and

Piecemakers
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Twenty-fourth annual Potato Day is scheduled for August 1

In a week and a half's time on Saturday, August 1, 2015, Clark will hold their 24th annual Potato Day. Some new and exciting activities and events are being added to this year's venue. Sponsored by the Clark Chamber of Commerce, Potato Day 2015 provides activities which are fun for the entire family.

Potato Day headquarters will be located under the Dacotah Bank tent at Dickinson Park. In keeping with tradition, anyone with a tasty potato and chip dip recipe is encouraged to enter the potato and chip dip recipe contest. Everyone always looks forward to the decorated potato contest held at the Clark Flower and Gift Shop.

Juggler, helicopter rides, free blood pressure screenings and the Holy Rocka Rollaz band.

On Friday, July 31, the weekend fun begins with Trolley Follies. Then on Saturday, among the many traditional and beloved events, there will also be mud drag races, a horseshoe tournament and bingo; just to name a few.

The Potato Day Parade is a huge culmination of the day's events with many floats, antique tractors and cars starting at the St. Michael's Catholic Church. Organizers en-

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Clark Chamber of Commerce
Potato Day - Aug. 1, 2015
Mystery Mr. & Mrs. Potato Head Clue #3

Almost every house in town has his number.
So many in fact it makes us wonder.
Though wife doesn't. He is too busy with lions, dogs and goats.
Gardening, camping and fishing boats.

Send answers to:
Cassi Bloom,
604 S. Smith St., Clark, SD 57225.



Monday was a big day going forward for the Willow Lake School District 12-3 as ground breaking ceremonies took place for the \$3,500,000 building project.

A new activities center, three classrooms, library and administrative area are all to be erected.

Doing ground breaking honors include: front row, left to right, student council members Mikenna Burke, Oscar Garcia, Teresa Verdon and Sa-

Ground is broken for Willow Lake School building project

Construction is now beginning on the first phase of the Willow Lake School building project. Phase I will be the 13,762 square foot activities center to be located directly south of the current school auditorium.

The entire building project is to

cost \$3.5 million and will be funded through capital outlay certificates.

All plans and specs have been accepted by Tellinghuisen Construction, the main contractor for this project.

Dean Marske and Scott Sikkink of HKG Architects, of Aberdeen, ex-

plained the particulars of the project.

Said Sikkink, "The activities center will be completed mid-winter, probably in February/March of 2016. Along with the wood floor high school regulation basketball court, 715 seats and locker rooms/

concessions, there will be new public restrooms."

After the new gym has been built, Phase II will begin. The second phase is the partial demolition of the original high school building.

Willow Lake
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