

Clark County Courier

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Clark County 4-H
Achievement Days
is August 1-3

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The hometown newspaper of Robert Roscoe, Wallingford, Conn.

Clark School 2022-23 budget hearing held this month

The Clark School Board, at the July Budget Hearing, examined a proposed general budget for the 2022-2023 school year that calls for \$4,302,438.00 in spending in the six budget areas.

At the July School Board meeting on July 11, superintendent Travis Ahrens and business manager Mary Nelson presented and detailed the proposed budget.

In interviewing the two administrators regarding the budget, both felt it was a fiscally responsible budget and both Ahrens and Nelson felt that this efficiency was an important variable looking at the school's financial picture.

Said Ahrens, "We are trying to be efficient, looking both short term and long term. The funding formula is based on a student-teacher staffing ratio funding formula. We are maximizing in all areas to remain efficient."

* Clark School had 449 students a year ago, and this year at this point the number is 446. So the number is flat, but steady. The official count date of each public school is September 30. Next year there are 22 seniors and 32 in preschool, so 10 students will be gained by Kindergarten class being larger than graduated senior class.

* The last two years the school has used fifty percent of the \$300,000 opt out. Two years are remaining, and the school board is looking at using \$150,000 for the 2022-2023 school year of the tax freeze opt out dollars.

* This year and next year are the two remaining years of one hundred percent Crocker Wind Tower monies, then it reverts to 80 percent, then 60 percent, etc.

* Using Expetec will be a \$20,000 savings for technology production services.

* All staffing positions have been filled. Some extra-curricular duties such as Oral Interp and One-Act Play need advisors. The Field House supervisor position also needs to be filled.

* The COVID-19 ESSER funds have been earmarked for infrastructure, such as the already

completed air conditioning in the main gym. The school is looking at also air conditioning the Field House, and re-conditioning the elementary boiler. The school has also purchased technology with ESSER funds, as every classroom has a Promethean smart board.

"The ESSER funds help with our long-term investments for students. After next year, approximately two-thirds of ESSER funds will be spent," said the superintendent.

* Regarding capital outlay, the school is planning to spend \$600,000, down approximately \$50,000 from a year ago.

* The bell system will be updated. The current bell system came with the school when it was built. This bell system upgrade will improve security and communication within the building.

* There will be one exterior key system for both schools. It will be a cloud based cell phone app, being able to lock and unlock doors from a cell phone.

* Two full time certified staff members have been absorbed, saving approximately \$80,000; one a special ed position and the other an educator at Silver Lake Colony.

* The Special Education tax levy is being dropped from 89¢ per \$1,000 to 80¢ per \$1,000.

Business manager Nelson reiterates "that it was a key challenge to be efficient and balancing with tax dollars," concerning the 2022-23 budget.

The official school budget will be adopted this fall.

WEATHER			
Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer			
	HI	LO	PR
July 19.....	93	70	0
July 20.....	80	61	0
July 21.....	88	60	0
July 22.....	88	61	0.40
July 23.....	80	59	0
July 24.....	88	59	0
July 25.....	76	61	0
2022 precipitation to date	15.76		
2021 precipitation to date	11.72		



Clark County 4-H Rodeo fills up the Fairgrounds

Over 250 competitors, counting both days, participated in the Clark County 4-H Rodeo this past Saturday and Sunday at the Clark County Fairgrounds.

For the fourth weekend in July, the weather was ideal. It didn't feel that

way Saturday morning, as the weather was rainy, windy and chilly. The weather turned around nicely and Sunday was ideal.

This was the 21st Annual Clark County 4-H Rodeo. An unidentified pair competes in team calf roping.

South Dakota 24/7 alcohol-testing program could go national

*Stu Whitney
South Dakota News Watch*
A zero-tolerance testing approach to reducing drunken driving and other alcohol-related crimes that started in South Dakota could broaden its reach nationally, despite concerns from critics that it restricts the constitutional rights of some participants.

The 24/7 Sobriety program, pioneered by former South Dakota Attorney General Larry Long, requires offenders to submit to twice-a-day breathalyzer tests or remote monitoring as a condition of pre-trial bond or sentencing agreement. Failure to remain sober means the participant is sent to jail, a no-n-

sense doctrine that has coincided with a decrease in DUI and other alcohol-related offenses, according to independent studies.

"That's why it works," Long said of 24/7 Sobriety, which is used in South Dakota, North Dakota and Montana and is in place in four other states as pilot programs. "These people know that if they show up and blow hot, they're going to jail."

South Dakota is a testing ground for lawmakers and policy analysts seeking to reduce the effects of alcohol abuse, which kills more than 140,000 individuals nationally each year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, with an annual cost of nearly \$250

billion due to lost work productivity and health care expenses. Since 24/7 Sobriety started in 2005, there have been more than 39,000 participants in South Dakota and nearly 12.5 million tests administered, with a pass rate of 98.8%, according to the attorney general's office.

All but four South Dakota counties (Buffalo, Jones, Oglala Lakota and Todd) utilize the program, which focuses on repeat offenders and is largely self-funded because the cost of testing is passed on to participants. The original system, which targeted convicted drunken drivers, has expanded to include other cases involving alcohol or drugs, including cases involving

abused or neglected children, and as a stipulation for maintaining a work permit.

In most counties, the first time the participant fails a test or doesn't show up, he or she is jailed for 12 hours, followed by 24 hours for a second violation and 48 hours for a third. Any further violations are sent to a judge, who can revoke bond or the sentencing agreement and put the offender behind bars for an extended period.

The next test for the program is to see if 24/7 Sobriety can catch on nationally. U.S. Rep. Dusty John-

Alcohol testing
(continued on page 11)

Starting as a quilt club, Happy Bunch Club celebrates 100 years



Three generations of the Happy Bunch Club are pictured in this photo: Marilyn Steiger, her daughter Brenda Jenkins and granddaughter Becky Kunz.

The seated members of the Happy Bunch Club, left to right, are Jane Howardson, Marilyn Steiger, Rosemary Schmitt and Pat Lewis.

The members standing in the back are Brenda Jenkins, holding her grandson Audrick Kunz, and Becky Kunz, holding her son Everett Kunz.

Happy Bunch Club members missing from the photo are Barb Hallberg, Karen McGraw and Violetta Severson.

One hundred years ago this month, July 1923, the Happy Bunch Club was formed. Starting out primarily as a quilt club, the Happy Bunch Club started with 20 charter members, and as the club turns 100, there are nine active members.

Charter members included Clara Bailey, Ruth Bible, Lillie Collins, Effie Eggena, Bessie Guffey, Edith

Michalski, Evelyn Morh, Georgia Mourere, Myrtle McGraw, Evelyn Peterson, Marie Peterson, Berniece Seefeldt, Jessie Seefeldt, Tillie Seefeldt, Altona Sellvold, Mae Schulz, Rachel Tipton and Ethel Roberdeau.

"At meetings today we gather and make favors or centerpieces for the nursing home or the assisted

living centers," said Happy Bunch Club member Marilyn Steiger. The club also provides boxes for the elderly at Christmas, and helps organizations distribute items.

Every June the Happy Bunch Club has a club tour. Recent club tour visits have been made to the Redlin Art Center, Easton Castle, Mellette House and the Grainery.

Current members include: Marilyn Steiger, Rosemary Schmitt, Pat Lewis, Jane Howardson, Barb Hallberg, Karen McGraw, Violetta Severson, Brenda Jenkins and Becky Kunz.

The 40th anniversary was held July 10, 1962 at the home of Clara Bailey. For the meeting, a former club member's name was drawn by each member and invited as a guest. A social afternoon was spent recalling past club days. Mrs. Ruth Bible and Mrs. Jessie Seefeldt were honored with bouquets of flowers as the two charter members still in the club.

The 50th anniversary of the Happy Bunch Club was held in Jessie Seefeldt's yard. At that time, there were 17 members: Clara Bailey, Eleanor Dokken, Margaret Gammelin, Mary Lou Hallberg, Pat Lewis, Karen McGraw, Myrtle McGraw, Aileen Overlie, Ethel Roberdeau, Angela Seefeldt, Jessie Seefeldt, Marjorie Seefeldt, Tillie Seefeldt, Altona Sellevold, Violetta Severson, Marilyn Steiger and Darlene Terrill. A poem written by former member Mrs. Minnie Edwards was read by Mrs. Terrill and a song was presented by the Terrill, McGraw, Steiger, Lewis and Overlie children.

The 65th and 75th anniversaries were celebrated at the Playhouse Dining Room. At the 75th celebration, a pre-1936 Happy Bunch Club quilt, found by Darlene Peterson in her mother's, Marie Peters, hope chest, was displayed. The quilt con-

tained 25 Happy Bunch members' names. Club activities at the time included making favors for nursing home residents and baskets for shut-ins. Members included: Karen McGraw, Violetta Severson, Genevieve Seefeldt, Aileen Overlie, Joyce Temple, Mary Lou Hallberg, Angela Seefeldt, Evelyn Peterson, Eleanor Dokken, Marjorie Seefeldt, Gail Temple, Brenda Jenkins, Marilyn Steiger, Cheryl Anderson, Clara Bailey, Patti Lewis, Rosemary Schmitt and Jane Howardson.

The 80th Anniversary, held at the fellowship hall of the Plymouth Congregational Church, honored members that were gone but not forgotten and presented the follow-

ing awards: Senior Member - Eleanor Dokken; Most Years As A Member - Marjorie Seefeldt; Newest Member - Rosemary Schmitt; Four Generation Membership - Angela Seefeldt, Marilyn Steiger, Brenda Jenkins and Becky Jenkins; 45 Year Member - Karen McGraw. The officers at the 80th Anniversary were president Marjorie Seefeldt, vice president Aileen Overlie, secretary Mary Lou Hallberg and treasurer Angie Seefeldt. There were 15 club members at the time.

The group's 90th anniversary was celebrated with a decorated cake at their annual pot-luck picnic at the swimming pool park in Clark.

By-Laws of the Happy Bunch Club - Rewritten Nov. 1928
The Happy Bunch Club started in 1922. In 1928 the by-laws were rewritten.

1. The Happy Bunch Club meets twice a month on the first and third Wednesday. The afternoon meeting to be called to order about 2:30 p.m. and the meetings in the winter to be called to order after dinner.
2. Each member entertains in alphabetical order when possible to do so.
3. Our aim is to work for our hostess if she has anything for us to do. If not, we may work for ourselves.
4. The dues of five cents per month or 60 cents a year to be paid twice a year, in June and December.
5. For lunch we are not to serve more than three things besides a drink. If we go beyond this limit, we are to be fined \$5.00 which is to go into the club treasury.
6. The money in the treasury is to be used in buying flowers for the sick or aiding them in any useful way. If aid is given an outsider, each member will be taxed accordingly if all agree. In case of sickness, flowers are to be sent to the members and immediate family only. Cards are to be sent for a distant relative by the secretary.