



September school board meeting is full of 2022-2023 budget discussion

At the September meeting of the Clark School Board, the 2022-2023 fiscal year budget of \$6,100,00 was approved.

The budget dominated the discussion at the September 12 meeting, held in the Clark High School library.

Business manager Mary Nelson and superintendent Travis Ahrens began by saying that the district will be spending \$190,000 less in tax dollars as the special education levy is lowered from 89¢ per \$1,000 to 68¢ per \$1,000.

Capital outlay is \$701,000 in next year's budget compared to \$651,000 this last year. The net reduction will be \$142,000 less in tax dollars, stated Ahrens.

"We will remain at fifty percent of the opt out (of the tax freeze), at \$150,000, the same as last year," he continued.

Ahrens and Nelson then went over the capital outlay projects planned for 2022-23. The list includes \$50,000 for weight room equipment; \$58,000 for a 15-passenger van, and this cost has increased significantly this year; \$165,000 for windows and doors in the Voss Building section of the elementary; and high school lockers.

Ahrens explained security has increased with a new key fob system, and a new bell system. "Myself as well as a few others will be able to control doors from a phone app. It will be very accommodating and easy," he said of the new key system which is already in place.

Some COVID ESSER funds are left as this will be the last year of availability. The Field House HVAC will be updated as well as the elementary boiler.

In other business:

- * The state mileage increase from \$0.42 per/mile to \$0.51 per/mile was approved as of September 12.
- * The Meal Charge Policy (EFA) was approved.
- * The Naming Rights and Naming School Facilities Policy (FM) was approved.
- * Jill Rathe's contract as the All-School Play (\$2,376) and One-Act Director (\$1,944) was approved.
- * Nichole DesLauriers' contract as High School Oral Interp coach (\$1,728) was approved.
- * After a five minute executive session, open enrollment for student 1A was approved.
- * The October school board meeting could be moved to Wednesday, October 12, as it now is scheduled on the Columbus Day/Native American Day holiday.



Government Day held on Constitution Day, Monday, in Clark

Constitution Day is not a federal holiday, but September 19, is Constitution Day and this school year it is also Government Day for Clark County high school seniors.

Government Day is when Clark and Willow Lake government students learn about county government, touring the various courthouse offices in the morning and then witness circuit court during the afternoon session.

The Clark County Board of Commissioners also met on Monday, rather than the normal Tuesday, so seniors from the two high schools could observe the county commission meeting.

Government Day is sponsored by the American Legion, and Clark County Commander Darin Lewis began the day giving the students a brief overview of the many areas of government, including law enforcement, handled at the county level. All county and city law enforcement officers were on hand.

After lunch, the seniors toured the Charters of Freedom at Flat Iron Park. While viewing The Constitution, The Bill of Rights and The Declaration of Independence, students listened to American Legion member Dave Adam talk about the importance of voting and being a responsible citizen, while posing for the group photo.

Voters to decide again on recreational marijuana

By Dana Hess

For the S.D. Newspaper Association

It may seem like deja vu for South Dakota voters this year as they will once again be deciding whether or not they want the state to allow recreational marijuana.

Initiated Measure 27 is a scaled-down version of the Amendment A that voters approved in the last election. Despite finding favor with voters, the amendment was challenged in court and defeated. That scenario still rubs Matthew Schweich the wrong way. He's the campaign manager for Yes on 27 for South Dakotans for Better Marijuana Laws.

It's not the Supreme Court's ruling that rankles Schweich so much as the timing. The court got the case on April 28, 2021, and didn't make its ruling until the day before Thanksgiving 2021.

"The worst part of the Amendment A case as the South Dakota Supreme Court took so long and deprived us of guidance as to how we

should draft our 2022 initiative," Schweich said. "I think that was a pathetically shameful act. It was an attack on the initiative process, that delay."

Schweich describes Initiated Measure 27 as a shorter, simpler version of Amendment A. It allows for the possession of one ounce or less of marijuana by people over age 21, the possession of a limited number of plants for home growing and sets civil penalties for the violation of marijuana-related restrictions.

Unlike Amendment A, Initiated Measure 27 does not include the regulation and licensing of retail outlets or a formula for the taxation of marijuana sales.

No matter how the measure is written, Jim Kinyon thinks it's a bad idea. He is the chairman of Protecting South Dakota Kids which opposes IM27. Kinyon notes that South Dakota voters turned down

Marijuana
(continued on page 5)



The Clark High School main hallway has been transformed into a student Advanced Placement study area. Macy Steen's 2022 Senior Project was to make this area more 'student friendly and relaxing.'

Macy Steen's new study area for Clark High School students proves to be a success

▲ 2022 Senior Project is now available

2022 Clark High School graduated senior Macy Steen put together her senior project to create a special study area for students who meet certain criteria. Clark High School principal Ms. Jennifer Heggelund commented, "The hallway study area/lounge is available for any junior or senior who has a dual credit online class that is on track in all classes and has strong attendance. It is also available to any senior who may not have a dual credit course, but is still on track with their school work and meets all eligibility requirements for this privilege."

"The overall purpose of the lounge is to provide an alternate location for students who take multiple and dual credit classes," said Heggelund. Before, students sat in a study hall for two or three periods a day working on dual credit course work. "It just got long," said Heggelund. Dual credit courses are classes that high school students

meeting certain requirements can take during high school that will



Macy Steen

count towards college credits. These courses come at a cost but at a significant discount and gives students the opportunity to get a good head start on their college career.

"Macy was an excellent student and took several dual credit classes. Her hope was to put this study area/lounge in place so future students in her position could benefit from it. She felt kids would be more focused if they had a place to work outside of the study hall classroom," added Heggelund.

The hallway is very well used and proving to be a great asset to the students eligible to use it. "Our students with multiple dual credit classes have really liked having a change in atmosphere and having a place they can work where they can charge their computer, work comfortably and focus on their coursework," Heggelund stated. It has the feel of a college lounge area. It helps provide a glimpse of what college online classes might look like while providing a comparable college atmosphere and work environment for their courses. "Tables have charging docks, and the couches

and chairs are a comfortable place for students to be engaged and learn their content," finished Heggelund.

Steen's senior project will be useful for years to come. Senior projects come in wide varieties and are completed by Clark seniors as a requirement for graduating.



Blue is King, Hyatt is Queen at Henry High School

Coronation was held Monday night during Homecoming activities this week at Henry High School.

Pictured are King Sam Blue, Queen Zoie Hyatt, Little Master Caleb Mitchell and Little Miss Tinsley Foster.

WEATHER

Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
September 13.....	82	50	0
September 14.....	83	53	0
September 15.....	90	60	0.16
September 16.....	85	57	0.01
September 17.....	75	59	0
September 18.....	84	54	0
September 19.....	75	56	0
2022 precipitation to date	17.85		
2021 precipitation to date	17.71		