



State pressuring county to increase valuations

At Tuesday's meeting of the Clark County Board of Commissioners, valuations was the primary topic of conversation after routine business was handled.

Clark County Director of Equalization Jarvis Reidburn, along with Scott Johnson of Vanguard Appraisals and Russ Hanson of the South Dakota Department of Revenue, all addressed the commissioners.

It was announced a year ago that Vanguard Appraisals, an Iowa firm, will be appraising all Clark County parcels, from April to November of this year, excluding bare ag land.

Prior to this reappraisal however, the Director of Equalization has to set valuations for this year.

Reidburn explained that this is the third year after the state has gone away from the 150 percent rule. Because of many factors putting Clark County in a very 'undervalued' situation concerning valuations, Reidburn is being forced by the state department of revenue regulations to bring about three options regarding 2018 valuations.

Option 1 - Increase valuations in the city of Clark by 11 percent and in the city of Willow Lake by 83 percent.

Option 2 - A 25 percent increase across the board in the entire county.

Option 3 - Do nothing and have the state do a 1.25 times more than the assessed value would be.

How higher valuations equate to higher taxes was then asked by mayor Del Bratland of Willow Lake and there is not a simple answer to that, as when taxes are involved so are mill levies and there are three taxing districts; the school, the city and the county, all with their own respective mill levies. So taxes are definitely different, but connected to valuations and any time large percentage increases are involved, it gets one's attention.

Reidburn was looking for direction from the county, as his office will need to make a decision of the three aforementioned options within the month of January.

A full contingent of both mayor, Commissioner committee assignments for 2018 were made and these include: Mental Health - Chris Sass; Extension - Richard Reints; Weed and Pest - Violet Wicks; Airport - Robert Bjerke, Sass and Francis Hass; ICAP - Hass; First District - Reints; Glacial Lakes - Bjerke; Legislative Contact - Wicks.

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A full contingent of both mayor,

Valuations (continued on page 3)

WEATHER

Ryan Eggleston - Official Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
Dec. 26	-1	-16	0
Dec. 27	9	-11	0
Dec. 28	10	-3	0
Dec. 29	2	-16	.05
Dec. 30	-13	-24	tr
Dec. 31	-18	-25	0
Jan. 1	-8	-23	0
2017 precipitation to date	23.13		
2016 precipitation to date	21.93		
2018 precipitation to date	0.00		

Dr. Seuss mural will now greet students at Clark Elementary

A beautiful, colorful and familiar mural will soon be completed and greet the students in the west entryway of the Clark Elementary School. Karli Paulson and Alexandria Thomas are the artists on the project.

Started at the school's Thanksgiving break, the young ladies expect it to take a couple more weeks to finish.

Stephanie Meisel of Raymond, who formerly worked as a free lance art director doing retail advertising for some big name companies in Georgia, New York and North Dakota previously, is the girls' required mentor on the project.

"They drew it in one day, free hand," stated Meisel. "After that, we did grid it before the painting began. A few more weeks and we will be done I believe," said Meisel who is helping with the painting part of the project as well. Acrylic paint is being used on the mural with a clear sealant to be used on top at the end.

"We figured for our design, it should be something to do with the elementary so we thought 'Cat in the Hat'. Then we brought in some more characters of Dr. Seuss," noted Thomas.

"We learned more about the Dr. Seuss characters in putting this mural together," added Paulson. "We're adding Max from the 'Grinch', Horton from 'Horton Hears a Who', Sam from 'Green Eggs and Ham', 'Yurtle the Turtle', a red fish and the Lorax. We're also adding in some balls from sports and the character counts words will be added to the rainbow colors.

"For the tree leaves, we'll be using the teachers handprints," continued Paulson whose future plans are to go into the animation pro-



A very colorful mural with familiar Dr. Seuss characters will soon be completed in the entryway of the Clark Elementary School. At left, Karli Paulson and Alexandria Thomas are the two who have collaborated to bring the mural to fruition as their senior project.

Paulson plans on going into the animation program at Minnesota State-Moorhead and Thomas is going into nursing at Lake Area Technical Institute next fall. Stephanie Meisel of Raymond is the seniors' mentor for the mural project.

gram at Minnesota State-Moorhead following graduation. Thomas will be attending Lake Area Technical Institute in the nursing program next fall.

Both seniors also were required in their senior experience project to do a research project pertaining to their senior project. Both ladies did muralists.

"I did Edwin Blashfield," said Paulson. "He was a famous painter who among his murals, did one on the ceiling of the capitol building in Washington, D.C."

"My report was on Jackson Pollock who started the abstract movement," said Thomas. "He did the drip paintings and named them by numbers like #24."

The girls made a lot of headway on their project over the Christmas vacation, working at the elementary while the students were on their Christmas break.

"It's been a fun project - the girls are doing a good job," ended Meisel. "It will be fun to see it when it's finished."

2017 Year in Review - Part II

July
 As July begins, it is a *Courier* tradition to picture 'knee-high' corn on the front page with a Clark County youngster. Knee-high has turned to waist-high corn in recent years and such was the case in 2017. Bayler Hurlbut, daughter of Dustin and Jeana, did the honors the week of July 4.



Bayler Hurlbut, age (almost) three, daughter of Dustin and Jeana Hurlbut, stands by the neighborly 'Noethlich' corn field just south of their ranch near Raymond.

Jed Hansen of Hangar 8 Spray Service had a busy time of spraying, causing a very active airport in early July.

The Logan School picnic reunion tradition came to a close in 2017. The 25th reunion was the final one for the Logan Consolidated School.

Robert Steffen is re-elected Clark School Board president.

Over 200 contestants compete in the Clark County 4-H Rodeo annually. The rodeo is held in July at the Clark County Fairgrounds. In 2017, it was the 16th Annual Clark County 4-H Rodeo.

Weather was ideal for the Fourth of July Willow Lake Parade.

Clark was the site of the 13-14 year old VFW

Northwest Region baseball tournament.

Cargill elevator in Vienna announced that it was closing at the end of August.

Pastor Mark Cronauer is the new Clark Assembly of God Church minister.

The Crocker Wind Farm filed a writ of certiorari in circuit court, five pages in length.

Five Clark FCCLA students, Janae Kolden, Josh Weisbrod, Bradyn Rusher, Olivia Sass and Mekel Sanchez competed in the Life Smarts Knowledge Bowl at the FCCLA National Convention in Nashville, Tenn. The team lost to the eventual champion, from Kansas City, Mo., in the knockout round.

Dakota Butcher has been very successful in retail in Clark and has expanded to Watertown. Randy and Karen Gruenwald also own the DB Barbecue and Drive-In.

Clark native and LPGA golfer Kim Kaufman had another very successful season. In July, Kaufman finished tied for sixth at the LPGA Marathon Classic, in Sylvania, Ohio.

Clark hosted the American Legion Baseball All-



Steve Hennigs, owner of Wheatland Aviation, stands next to the newly erected sign at the Clark County Airport. Alongside Hennigs are his wife Nikki and 11-year-old son Christopher.

Star Games at Dakota Style Field in Dickinson Park.

Neil Jensen was re-elected Henry School Board president.

The Happy Bunch Club celebrated its 95th birthday with a get-together at the Ulyot Building, in Clark.

The Clark Traders amateur baseball team won its fifth consecutive District title.

August

Steve Hennigs is the owner of Wheatland Aviation at the Clark County Airport. Hennigs, an airplane mechanic, along with his wife Nikki, initiated a 'fly-in' in conjunction with Potato Day, 2017.

The multi-phase construction project at Willow Lake School is now complete. Starting in 2015, classrooms, a new library, a new administrative area and a new auditorium were all erected.

The Clark Community Garden boasts 12 plots and is located in the southeast corner of the city.

Terrific summer weather helped bring the community together for another successful Potato Day - the 26th annual. Every year the parade is long, entertaining and well-attended.

It was cloudy all day during the total solar eclipse.

Philip Schonebaum is the new superintendent at Henry School and Jon Redmond is the new principal.

South Dakota Third Judicial Court Judge Carmen Means denied the order by Geronimo Energy and Crocker Wind Farm against the Clark County Board of Commissioners/Board of Adjustment.

Planted wheat acres were cut back by producers in 2017. Timely rains have benefited the row crops, especially the soybeans.

The Clark City Library had ample (free) solar glasses available for the eclipse.

Achievement Days are the highlight of the summer for Clark County 4-H'ers. Over 1,000 exhibits were entered this year.

Chris Lee is the new principal at Willow Lake School. Three new teachers are on staff.

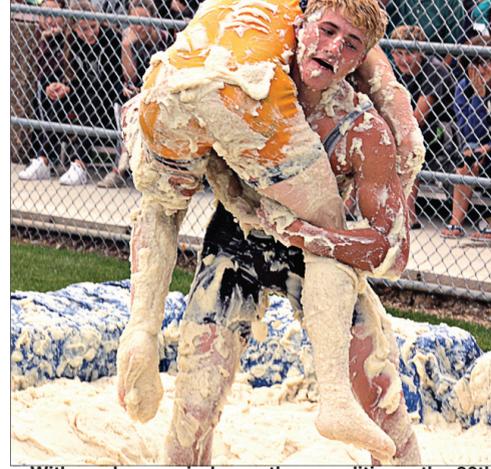
Five new teachers join the staff at Clark School.

The 2017 CHS Homecoming theme is 'Disney Movies'.

Clark County participated in an active shooter exercise at the courthouse. Clark County Deputy Sheriff/Emergency Management Director Michael Graving "was pleased with how it played out."

Dr. Eric Knock receives the 2017 Emerging Leader Award from the South Dakota Veterinary Medical Association. Knock, a Willow Lake native now owns a clinic in Miller.

Pheasant numbers continue a downward spiral. A prolonged early summer drought could be the culprit.



With cool, non-windy weather conditions, the 26th annual Potato Day was a great day for one and all, young and old alike.

In a tag team affair with six wrestlers, Caleb Orris is ready to give his opponent Justus Reidburn a landing spot in the spuds.

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Year in Review (continued on page 3)



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