

Clark County Courier

The voice of Clark County since 1880

Groundhog Day is Friday



no shadow
What will it be?
Six more weeks
of winter or
an early
spring?

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\$1.00

The hometown newspaper of Carmen Kloster, Moorhead, MN

PUC input hearing is Monday, at Legion Hall

The South Dakota Public Utilities Commission will hold a public hearing regarding the Crocker Wind Farm on Monday, February 5, at 5:00 p.m. at the Clark American Legion Hall. The purpose of the Crocker Wind Farm public hearing is to hear public input comments. The Crocker Wind Farm, a wind

energy facility, located on approximately 29,331 acres of land will be eight miles north of Clark. The proposed project includes up to 120 wind turbines.

The (legal) Notice of Public Hearing is found on page 6 of this *Courier* publication.

County positions are now open

The time is now to take out nominating petitions if one is interested in running for county office in 2018. Offices up for election to 4-years terms in 2018 include commissioners in Districts 1, 3 and 5, auditor, sheriff and register of deeds.

The incumbents for these positions include, board of commissioners; District 1, Violet Wicks; Dis-

trict 3, Francis Hass and District 5, Richard Reints. The Clark County Sheriff is Rob McGraw, Andrea Helkenn is the register of deeds and Chris Tarbox is the auditor. McGraw has filed his petition for sheriff.

County positions
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Arrest made Friday, in Clark

Friday afternoon, a little after 3:00 p.m., the Clark Police Department along with the ATF (Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms) and DCI, arrested Jeron Williams on a Federal Warrant without incident. Williams was wanted for racketeering.

On Wednesday, Clark Area Law Enforcement received information that Jeron Williams was possibly in the Clark area. Law enforcement, along with agents from the ATF searched the area and were unsuccessful in locating Williams.

Thursday, the Clark Police Department received information regarding Williams' location and began investigating the information. Today, January 26, law enforcement was able to positively identify Williams as being in Clark at a

Arrest
(continued on page 6)



The Clark and Willow Lake Lions Clubs are co-sponsoring a trip to Jamaica for eye specialists to help the less fortunate.

Pictured at the Lions Pancake Feed, on Sunday, are left to right, Stephanie Beynon, optometrist Dr. Chad Beynon, Clark Lions Club president Harvey Spieker, Misti Ausland, Clark Lions Club representative on the project, Ronnie Lamb and Willow Lake Lions Club members Don Pommer and Basil Englert.

The Beynons and Ausland, along with Matt and Molly Lindgren, will be in Jamaica from June 2-9, helping the needy with vision care. Footwear and dental care will also be a part of the clinic, in which over 500 Jamaicans will visit the clinic.



Trees, with an icing of frost, made for incredible beauty

Mother Nature got out the white paint brush for trees last week, especially Tuesday evening into Wednesday morning. Call it frost, hoarfrost or ice fog, whatever the correct meteorological term, it was very pretty.

Notice that no snow is on the ground. The winter has been fairly open, with the last two weeks of January showing a 'January thaw'.

February is forecasted to begin colder than normal.

Clark and Willow Lake Lions Clubs team together to help in vision care

The Clark and Willow Lake Lions Clubs are teaming up to help with preventing blindness and saving sight for hundreds of Jamaicans.

Dr. Chad Beynon, along with his wife Stephanie and Misti Ausland will be in Jamaica from June 2 - 9, giving eye exams and glasses to 500 plus patients who will be coming to this clinic.

Dr. Beynon is an optometrist with Pearle Vision, in Watertown and Ausland is the store manager. They will be joined by Matt and Molly Lindgren. Matt Lindgren is a 2005 Clark High School graduate and the Lindgrens will be helping out wherever needed.

The clinic at Pondsides, Jamaica, this week in early June, will boast eye, shoe and dental care. A dental group out of Watertown, led by Da-

rin and Holly Bach, has been going to this Jamaican clinic location for 17 years. There will be three dentists and 11 dental students.

Also involved with this clinic will be volunteers from Samaritan's Feet, with 100's of shoes along. So this clinic will cover dental, vision and shoes.

On the vision side, Dr. Beynon will be giving eye exams, with Misti and Stephanie handling prescriptions, giving out glasses. "Our goal is to possibly buy equipment to keep down there (Jamaica), so we can have repeat trips," said Dr. Beynon. The group will fly into the Montego Bay area and then drive a couple hours to the missionary home where they will be staying.

On the local level, both the Clark and Willow Lake Lions Clubs work

on projects designed to prevent blindness, restore eyesight and improve eye health and eye care.

Over 1,000 glasses, statewide will be part of the glasses inventory going to Jamaica this summer.

WEATHER

Ryan Eggleston - Official
Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
Jan. 23	23	9	0
Jan. 24	39	9	0
Jan. 25	37	15	0
Jan. 26	42	20	0
Jan. 27	26	0	tr
Jan. 28	8	-4	0
Jan. 29	16	-6	0
2018 precipitation to date			0.00
2017 precipitation to date			0.17

South Dakota state government - of, by and for the people

Daugaard weighs in on the challenges successor will face

By Dana Hess
For the South Dakota
Newspaper Association

The next governor of South Dakota will face challenges brought on by a proliferation of laws, a poorly focused educational system and river pollution.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard, in the last year of his last term, shared his ideas about the challenges his successor will face when he met with newspaper editors and publishers as part of Newspaper Day at the Legislature. The event is sponsored by the South Dakota Newspaper Association.

Daugaard said he was happy that some legislators have presented bills designed to streamline South Dakota laws. He said the state should be vigilant about how many laws it enacts and not follow the example of the federal government.

"There is no one in the federal government who comprehends the breadth of the law," Daugaard said.

The governor said he regretted not realizing until late in his last term that an education system set up to send students to a four-year college doesn't serve the best interests of many students.

"A four-year degree is not the path that's successful for most of our students," Daugaard said.

Another late realization was the state of some of South Dakota's rivers that have been polluted by silt run-off.

"We've got some rivers, they're in bad shape," Daugaard said.

In a wide ranging news confer-

ence, the governor also discussed:

Internet sales tax

Daugaard said he has no idea how much money will be coming to the state if it wins its Supreme Court case regarding the remittance of sales tax on Internet sales.

When South Dakota passed the law that's being challenged in the high court—requiring Internet businesses to register with the state and remit sale tax—about 100 businesses signed up to pay sales tax.

"We know we're collecting some of the Internet sales," Daugaard said.

If the state should win its case and sales taxes are paid on all Internet sales, Daugaard said the first \$20 million in extra funding would be used to reduce the state sales tax by a 10th of a cent. The next \$20 million would reduce the state sales tax by another 10th of a cent.

Medicaid work requirements

Daugaard has proposed a work requirement for able-bodied people on Medicaid.

"I've always wanted a work requirement," Daugaard said. "Those who can work, should."

Of the 120,000 people on Medicaid in the state, Daugaard estimated that the work requirement would apply to only about 2,000 low-income parents.

"It's not a large group," Daugaard said.

Daugaard
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He said a voluntary program will start on July 1 to help those Medicaid recipients find jobs or training.

Executive branch vs. Legislature

As a former legislator and a two-term governor, Daugaard has worked in the legislative and executive branches. Asked if the executive branch had too much power,



The District 2 state legislators attended Newspaper Day, last Thursday, in Pierre. Left to right are Rep. Burt Tulson, Rep. Lana Greenfield and Sen. Brock Greenfield.

The legislators confirmed that the Clark Area Cracker Barrel will be Monday, February 19 at the Ulyot Building.

The respective legislative columns reflect what the District II legislators are thinking and reacting to this week.

Revenue at center of legislative leader, newspaper discussion

By Dana Hess
For the South Dakota
Newspaper Association

State revenue, or the lack of it, was at the center of Thursday's discussion between legislative leaders and newspaper publishers and editors.

The gathering that brought legislative party leaders together with more than 30 newspaper represen-

tatives was part of Newspaper Day at the Legislature sponsored by the South Dakota Newspaper Association.

As the state faces a \$34 million budget shortfall, lawmakers on both sides of the aisle are looking forward to the resolution of a U.S. Supreme Court case that may require online businesses to remit sales taxes to the states.

Senate Majority Leader Blake Curd, R-Sioux Falls, said that no one knows the "magnitude" of the funding that may become available to the state if it wins the Supreme Court case. Curd said the effects of extra funding may not be felt until fiscal year 2020.

"We're hopeful to see a successful resolution to it," Curd said of the court case.

A lack of funding has stymied efforts to set up treatment programs to handle people affected by the state's growing meth epidemic.

Curd said funding will continue to be needed because of "humans' innate interest in altering their perception of reality."

He lauded the state's efforts to choke off the supply of meth, driving up the price and making it tougher to get. He added, however, "Every time we do that, they seem to make it cheaper."

Curd said the increased revenues from taxation of Internet sales may be used to bolster meth treatment programs.

"With more revenue comes additional possibilities," Curd said.

More revenue is needed, according to Rep. Kent Peterson, R-Salem, assistant majority leader, because "our judicial system can't handle what this could lead to."

Stagnant funding is felt in corrections as well, according to Sen. Troy Heinert, D-Mission, assistant minority leader and chairman of the corrections commission.

Heinert said the state needs more money for prevention, treatment and counseling, all of which are less expensive than incarceration.

"If we are serious, then we need to find the money for it," Heinert said, noting that existing treatment facilities are located in Rapid City and Sioux Falls. "There's nothing in rural South Dakota."

Senate Minority Leader Billie Sutton, D-Burke, said there are currently untapped funding sources like the Governor's Future Fund and the state's budget reserves.

Rep. Spencer Hawley, D-Brookings, Minority Leader in the House, said he's bringing a bill that would set up a blue ribbon commission designed to look at revenue in South Dakota. He said the commission would be much like the governor's task force that looked at teacher salaries.

"We need to have a broad discussion on revenue in South Dakota," Hawley said. "We do not have enough revenue to run the state at the level we should be doing."