

January will start with colder weather conditions

Review of the new long range climate outlooks released last week from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Climate Prediction Center indicate that the wide variability in temperature swings of fall and winter are likely to continue; and the potential for a weak El Niño lingers, explained Dennis Today, South Dakota State Climatologist & SDSU Extension Climate Specialist.

"Weather conditions over the state have seen some large temperature shifts," he said, referencing the warm October, early cold in November and average December climate conditions.

According to new outlooks, Today said colder than average conditions once again look to cover the region from late December into at least the first few weeks of January.

"The eight to 14-day outlooks and other computer models are consistent in bringing a cold push across

the area into the early part of January as the jet stream pattern shifts again to build a ridge of high pressure along the west coast and allow more cold air into the middle part of the country," Today said.

The full 30-day outlook for January is not as confident that cold temperatures will linger throughout the entire state. "Indications

WEATHER			
Ryan Eggleston - Official Weather Observer			
	HI	LO	PR
Dec. 16	11	-1	0
Dec. 17	14	-2	0
Dec. 18	24	13	0
Dec. 19	27	24	0
Dec. 20	28	24	0
Dec. 21	34	27	0
Dec. 22	34	30	.08
2014 precipitation to date	16.08"		
2013 precipitation to date	25.61"		

that colder than average temperatures will linger for the whole 30-day period is only likely across the southern part of South Dakota and into Nebraska," Today said.

Impact

The impact Today sees of this pattern shift is to bring at least a temporary end to the warm conditions for much of December. "Even the recent colder period of the last week has been fairly close to average for this time of the year," he said.

"Livestock producers will have to prepare for colder conditions for cattle after the recent mild period," said Laura Edwards, SDSU Extension Climate Field Specialist. For crop producers, she added that snow cover from the recent winter storm will provide some protection for winter wheat fields in areas of the state ahead of the upcoming

January
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Christmas services planned for today and tomorrow

Worship services in our area include: In Clark, at the Plymouth Congregational (UCC) Church, a Christmas Eve Candlelight worship will be held at 7:00 p.m. with Pastor Fawn Lamb.

In Raymond, Pastor Donna Nickels will lead the Christmas Eve Candlelight service with communion at the First Presbyterian Church at 5:30 p.m.

At Bethlehem Lutheran in Raymond, Pastor Mark Guthmiller will lead the Christmas Eve service at 5:00 p.m. at Bethlehem. On December 25 at Peace, the Word and Song service will be held at 9:00 a.m.

At St. Paul Lutheran, their Christmas Eve Candlelight worship service with communion will be held at 8:00 p.m. The service will be led by Pastor Gary Anderson.

At the United Methodist Church in Clark, Pastors Mark and Joy Tracy invite members to the Christmas Eve Candlelight service and children's program held on the 24th at 3:00 p.m.

At St. Michael's Church in Clark, a Christmas Eve Mass will be held

at 7:30 p.m. with Father John Short.

In Garden City, Pastors Mark and Joy Tracy will be hosting a 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight worship service.

In Carpenter, the United Methodist Church will have their Christmas Eve Candlelight service and Sunday School program at 6:00 p.m.

In Willow Lake, the United Presbyterian Church will hold a Christmas Eve service of Lessons and Carols at 6:00 p.m. with Pastor Lois Arorian.

The Congregational Church in Willow Lake will hold their Christmas Eve service of Candles and Carols at 6:30 p.m. with Pastor Rosanne Anderson.

Pastor Mark Guthmiller invites members to the Willow Lake Evangelical Lutheran Church for their Christmas Eve children's service at 6:30 p.m.

At Grace Lutheran Church, Pastor Aaron Matson will lead the Christmas Eve worship at 5:30 p.m. Pastor Keith Garness will officiate

at the Good Hope Christmas Eve worship, held at 5:30 p.m.

In Bryant, at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Father John Short will officiate at a 9:00 a.m. Christmas Day Mass on December 25.

Also in Bryant at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Pastor Aaron Matson will host the Christmas Eve service on December 24 at 4:00 p.m.

In Vienna at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Pastor Keith Garness will host the Christmas Eve Worship at 4:00 p.m.

In the Crocker and Bradley area, the Crocker Lutheran Church will be hosting the Christmas Eve candlelight service with communion at 4:00 p.m. with the choir singing and Minister Marion Grimes officiating.

To bring in the new year, St. Michael's Catholic Church in Clark will host a 7:30 p.m. New Years Mass.

At St. Henry's Catholic Church, a 5:00 p.m. New Years Mass will be held in Henry.

Enjoy the holiday with those you love this Christmas.



The Johnny and Liz Wookey family of Clark were chosen to be on America's Funniest Home videos which aired on December 7, 2014. Shown above are Johnny holding Daisy, the Boston terrier, Mason, Ella and Liz Wookey in front of their Christmas tree at home. Daisy, alias 'The Naughty Nipper' played a big role in the video which earned third place and a free trip to California for her family in November

Johnny Wookey family appears on America's Funniest Home Videos

When grandpa John Wookey taped his two-year old grandson Mason Wookey dancing along with his father Johnny to an Xbox 360 with Kinect game at Christmas time in 2012, who knew that it would turn out to be a fun, profitable (and eventful) deal for the Johnny and Liz Wookey family from Clark!

On December 7, this video shown with the family's Boston terrier named 'Daisy', now deemed 'the Naughty Nipper', was shown on the ABC television show America's Funniest Home Videos.

Not only was the video shown on the television show, it won the family \$2,000, being awarded third place that evening.

"If you missed the show, you can

see the video on YouTube," said Wookey. "Just go to 'Naughty Nipper' and it should be towards the top."

The trip to California and back created stories of its own for the Wookey family. Would you believe they hit a deer, would you believe Liz broke her foot. And to top it all off, Johnny walked home a mile in a light coat, a baseball cap and mechanic gloves after they were stuck in blizzard-like conditions on the way home.

"Tell ya what, I was glad to get home," said Wookey of his frigid walk. They came home on the day of the first storm event of the season, on Sunday night, November 16. "It was 2:30 a.m. that night when we got stuck on our road,

a little over a mile from home. It was like 20° below windchill and we hadn't brought cold weather stuff as we were traveling to California. I had light weight mechanic gloves, a baseball cap and a lighter jacket when I walked home to get another vehicle. My family stayed in the warm vehicle."

The entire family, Johnny, his wife Liz, four-year old Mason and almost two-year old Ella traveled to California for the taping of the show Thursday, November 13.

Daisy, the 'Naughty Nipper' stayed home with a neighbor and did not make the trip.

On Thursday, November 13, on

Wookey
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Willow Lake School Board going forward with building project

An informational meeting was held Wednesday evening at the Willow Lake School auditorium to talk about building for the future of the school.

The building plan was outlined and explained by Scott Sikkink of HKG Architects, Aberdeen. This was the second future school building meeting, with the first one being held December 1.

Willow Lake School superintendent Scott Klautd was not able to attend Wednesday's meeting, as he is on the mend after suffering a minor heart attack two weekends ago.

Strategic Planning

The Willow Lake School Board has been going through a Strategic Planning process the last three years. The Strategic Planning involved five areas, with the 'facility' portion playing a big part.

As the school board reviewed the Strategic Planning, the decision was made to build rather than renovate.

Sikkink explained to the 60 present how his company was hired and why the decisions had been made and what those decisions have been to this point.

Points of Emphasis

The board and Sikkink handed out talking points from the December 1 meeting. Points of emphasis include:

- At December 1 informational meeting, an approximately \$3

million project was proposed. It included replacing old school with new ground level classrooms and replacing old gym square foot for square foot with 64 x 40 multi-purpose room attached to the east of the new classrooms.

- Very little discussion transpired about need for new classrooms but public feedback on multi-purpose room supported idea of building a larger, more functional facility built behind the present gym. There is a possible rubble site issue directly east of the old school where the 1909 building stood.

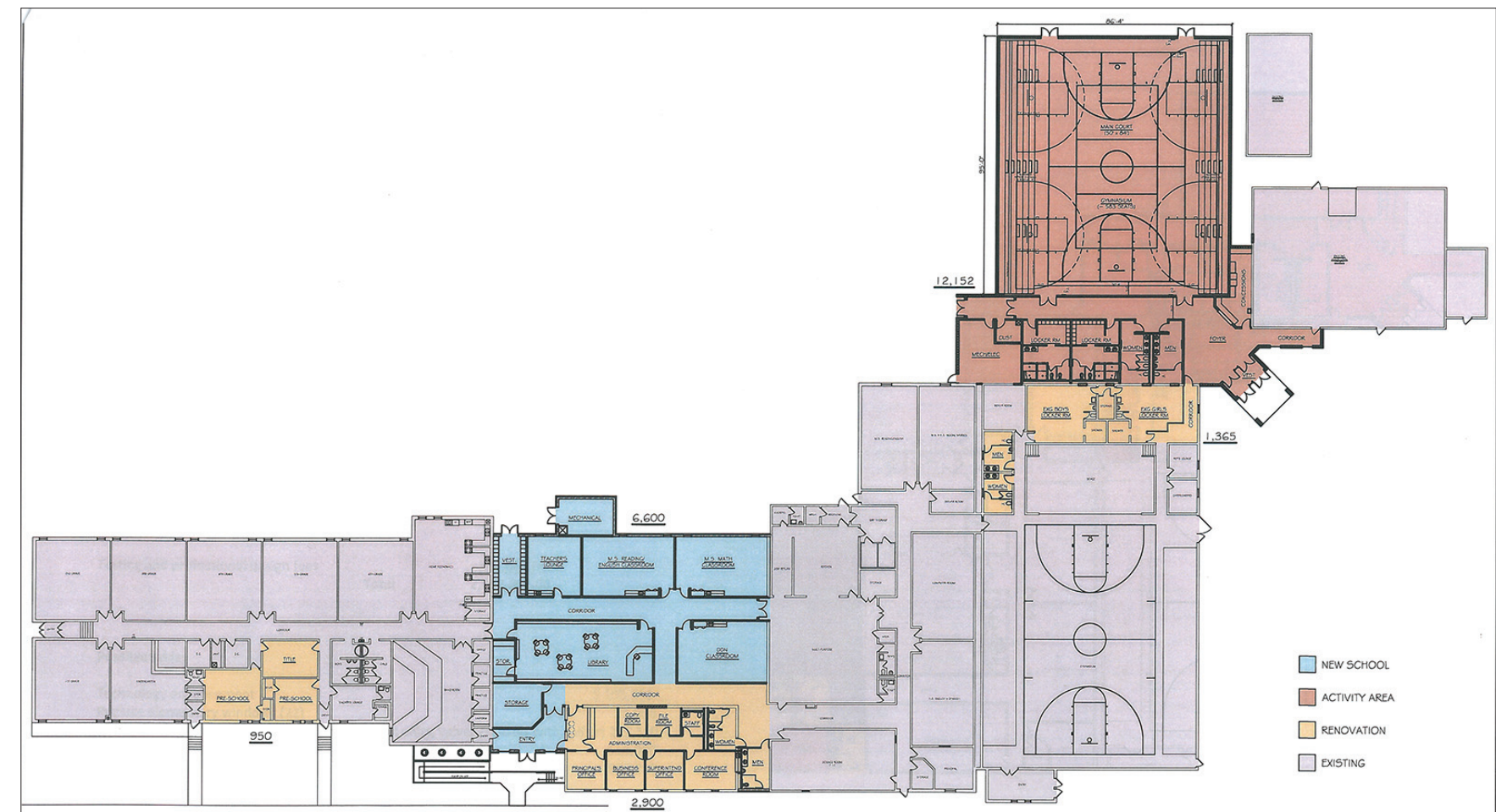
- Since that meeting the school board has proposed a revised project with a budget not to exceed \$3.7 million that would include a new gym.

- Keeping the project at this dollar level gains more usable space at a cost the Board, business manager and accountant feels is financially feasible for our district.

- The \$3.7 million price tag does not require a public vote, yet the Board does recognize the value of community approval of such a project through a public vote but the voting process would delay the project due to election time lines.

- If approved, tentative construction timeline is next spring through the 2015-16 school year with the building of the gym being the first step.

- Offering the best education to our district's children in a facili-



This is the architect's drawing of the proposed building and renovation project at Willow Lake School. The Willow Lake School Board will

be built first.

Option Three

As Sikkink took the crowd in attendance through the points of emphasis as well as re-capping what

make decisions going forward with this project in 2015. This illustration was produced by hkg architects, Aberdeen.

came out of the Dec. 1 meeting, he illustrated many talking points as to why building new, rather than renovating old, was the direction the Willow Lake School Board is

heading, because renovation is too cost prohibitive he noted!

"There are several key points

Willow Lake School
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