

Pool updates provided at the September meeting of Clark City Council

By Carolyn Olson

The Clark City Council meeting was held Monday, September 9, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the Ullyot Building.

There was no public input, however council member Melissa Neshiem stated that she received a phone call from a community member about the dust problems on Smith Street. Mayor Kline mentioned that she had also gotten calls about the situation. According to the council, keeping the dust under control is Halme Construction's responsibility. Council member Brandon Kottke then shared a few texts between himself and Halme Construction, "Dust control is written as each contract will provide dust control operations the time, location and manner, that will prevent or at least minimize the production of dust in a harmful or an annoying manner, water or dust preventative shall be used."

Finance Officer Rae Jean Flora informed the council that she and April Fitzgerald will be gone from Wednesday, October 9 through Friday, October 11 for a municipality conference in Sioux Falls. During their absence, Tara Thomas will be filling in at the City Hall Office.

Flora has also been working on abatements. City of Clark Police Chief Jeremy Wellnitz also spoke on the topic. Now that Halme Construction has finished up on the southern part of town, he has been able to look into those properties still needing abatements.

Flora will be sending out more abatements this week. Wellnitz stated that the period of time given to the property owners should be short, as they have been notified numerous times with no result. Wellnitz asked for approval from the council to take care of the situation after the designated dates on the abatements. It will then be their responsibility to get the properties cleaned up at the city's expense. The council gave their approval.

Wellnitz also briefly discussed the upcoming "Lie Low from the Popo" event that will be on Friday, October 26. There are currently 51 people signed up for the event. He encourages everyone to come out and join in on the fun. He also asked the board for their opinions on surplus their Ford Explorer and a firearm. The council gave their approval.

Darin Altfillisch provided a department update. Halme Construction will be finishing up soon and getting the roads looking better. They've also been out working on the ponds, fixing damage that's been done.

Tammy Rusher gave updates on the golf course. Saturday, September 28 will be the last day, hosting an Alumni Tournament. She also called about the door frame that needs to be fixed.

Three members of the pool committee were present: Cassi Kottke, Melissa Neshiem and Sarah McHenry. There are twelve members on the committee. Now they are fully incorporated and

their official title is "The Clark Community Aquatic Center." A bank account is set up, as well as a Venmo account. They have already received their first donation. The committee is in the process of becoming a 501C3 with the guidance and help from Clark County States Attorney Chad Fjelland. So far, the committee has had about five meetings with Josh from Burbach Aquatic and are now on their seventh pool revision. A blueprint of what the finished pool will look like was shown to the council. The cost of revision seven is \$4.2 million dollars. C. Kottke explained that the committee has decided to break the project into phases because it's not feasible to do all of the projects at once. The different phases include a mechanical building, a pool and a bathhouse; all together it will come to around six million dollars total. The pool is the main focus, in order to have a safe environment for the public to swim. A meeting will be held on Sunday, September 15 to review and approve the final drawing. The goal for next year is to be able to open the pool until August and then start working on the new project. Kottke asked the council if they could fit an additional \$200,000.00 into the budget for the 2025 and 2026 years. The city will be ordering a pool heater. Flora mentioned earlier in the meeting that the filter that was ordered finally arrived, both the pool heater and filter will be able to be used with the new pool, so there will be no extra cost there.

Josh from Burbach Aquatic will be attending October's city council meeting via zoom to go over details with the council. The pool committee would like an approval no later than November. The board approved this matter.

Discussion over live-streaming was first brought up at the August meeting of the Clark City Council. Police Chief Wellnitz presented two different options to the council at Monday night's meeting. Each council member shared their opinions, as well as the pros and the cons. A motion was carried to go forward with live-streaming future meetings, starting in January 2025. The city will purchase the Owl Labs Meeting Owl 3, a 360° conference camera, microphone and speaker, for \$1,049.00.

In Other Business:

{ Surplus property items were discussed.

{ The board rejected advertising in the Glacial Lakes Magazine.

{ Resolution #870 Fire Department Capital Outlay and Ordinance #588 2025 budget were approved.

{ Halme Construction's payment request was approved.

{ Executive session for personnel and contractual reasons, SDCL 1-25-2.1 and 4 began at 8:32 p.m. Executive session ended at 9:33 p.m. The meeting adjourned.

The next regular meeting of the Clark City Council will be on Monday, October 7 at 7:00 p.m.



Jerome Nesheim, left, nominated Fred Obermeier, right, for the Jerry Miller's Distinguished Service Award from the South Dakota High School Coaches Association (SDHSCA).

Photo Courtesy of Fred Obermeier

Obermeier receives Distinguished Service Award from SDHSCA

Fred Obermeier has been involved in high school athletics since his sophomore year at Clark High School. His journey began when the basketball staff needed someone to operate the clock for the boys' JV basketball games. This role evolved into all positions at the scorer's table, including announcing, scoring and even occasionally serving as the shot-clock operator and keeping the book for road games.

registered with the South Dakota Umpires Association since 1972, primarily umpiring at the American Legion and VFW teener levels. He managed the Clark amateur baseball team (Clark Traders) for 40 years and remains involved with the team.

Today, Obermeier is the official scorer for boys' and girls' home basketball games at Clark and Willow Lake and keeps their scorebooks on the road. He also assisted with the school's wrestling and volleyball programs in past years. In 1977, he recruited a football crew and got certified with the SDHSAA as a football official, later adding basketball and volleyball to his officiating credentials. He officiated football for 44 years, including three state championship games, retiring after the 2020 season.

Obermeier is also an active member of the Crocker Lutheran Church in Crocker and the owner/operator of Obermeier Ranch LLP, alongside his brother Ted, Ted's wife, Jody and nephews Wilkes and Zed.

Additionally, Fred has been

WEATHER			
Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer			
	HI	LO	PR
September 3.....	76	61	0
September 4.....	82	60	0
September 5.....	80	58	0
September 6.....	72	49	0
September 7.....	73	48	0
September 8.....	74	53	0
September 9.....	78	58	0
2024 precipitation to date	18.49"		
2023 precipitation to date	13.79"		

First summer session of Tuck and Tumble comes to a close

By Tara Knutson

Every Monday and Thursday throughout this summer season, the sounds of chatter and laughter could be heard coming through the walls of the American Legion building in downtown Clark.

Fifty students participated in Tuck and Tumble classes through the summer months under the direction of owner, founder and coach Sarah McHenry. These students increased their development of fine motor skills, body confidence, balance, flexibility and hand-eye coordination as the basis for more challenging gymnastic skills with the advanced athlete classes.

"It was organized chaos," recalls McHenry. "It was so rewarding to watch the kids progress with their skills and confidence throughout the classes. The younger kiddos went from needing to hold my hand on the lower beam and then go on to walk across the higher beam independently - the advancement was great."

The original age range for the course was children ages four to eight-years-old, but due to the amount of interested tumblers, the range was adjusted to include three- to-10-year-olds. "I created a separate class for the three-year-olds with five children in each class. The other classes, I had eight kids in each section. Several of the age groups had two classes to accommodate a larger number of students."

Several field experts were recruited to assist with instructing and coaching. Angie Osterloh, Emree Werdel, Adalyn Weber, Valley Roebke and Jenny Guest were committed to giving back to the sport. With the coaching and fundamental experience of the assistants, the curriculum was able to be adjusted for each level of experience of the athlete while maintaining consistency of skills throughout the class. "I was able to bounce ideas off the other girls, and their expertise and insight made a huge difference in



Above are the students who received a certificate for mastering two skill accomplishments over the summer session at Tuck and Tumble. Pictured in the front row, from left to right are Bryleigh Zantow, Logan McHenry, Cedric Hauck, Hallie McHenry and Riley Williams. In the back row are Sarah McHenry (teacher), Emree Werdel and Adalyn Weber.

Photo courtesy of Sarah McHenry

the flow of the instruction, content of lesson plans and success of the class."

"The Legion was a great location for the classes. There was room for parents and younger siblings to stay during the class. It was fun to watch the younger siblings, as they would mimic the stretches that the class participants were doing," said Sarah.

She added that with the amount of younger siblings showing interest, she may need to add another

class for three-year-olds. McHenry noted, "That age is particularly enjoyable to teach. To watch them develop their animal walks, forward rolls, coordination and headstands is rewarding."

The winter session is scheduled to run from January to March with 10 weeks of instruction. Through a donation from the Lee Schlagel Memorial Fund, new equipment was purchased for the advancement of the class athletes.

With new equipment and a pas-

sion for continued quality experiences for the children, McHenry has been working on several additions to her program. "I would really like to add a daytime play date for children from toddlers to age five." This would be a period of one to two hours during the week where children can come and play together with some of the equipment and safely burn off some energy while developing their motor skills. Another option McHenry is working on is a parent's night out. During this time of two to three hours during the evening, parents would be able to drop their children off in an open gym type session allowing them to have a few hours of uninterrupted time together. She added, "In the future, I would like to host birthday parties allowing the gym and equipment to be rented out to partygoers to celebrate a special day."

Another activity McHenry is working on is an obstacle course geared specifically for the rough and tumble tendencies of boys. "I need to think about how to do this course safely though, as the tumbling mats tend to slide on the wooden floors in the Legion. I need to think about this and work out this challenge first."

Transitioning to online registration to increase ease of use for parents and instructors is an objective for the next session. Another goal of McHenry's is to acquire a wider, bigger set of bars to allow the older kids to work on glides among other skills. "The size of the equipment along with the need for it to be mobile due to us sharing the Legion building with other organizations will require further research on my part."

McHenry ended, "The summer session has been a fun experience, and I look forward to the next session."

Information for registration and upcoming additional activities can be found on the Tuck and Tumble LLC Facebook page.



Beautiful South Dakota sunset illuminated the First Baptist Church of Clark recently. A wonderful sight to behold. Thank you Thea for sharing this photo with us and our readers.

Photo by Thea Whitney