

## TOP of the Week

### WEATHER

Ryan Eggleston - Official  
Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
Jan. 20 .....	31	23	.03
Jan. 21 .....	25	11	0
Jan. 22 .....	30	8	0
Jan. 23 .....	36	23	0
Jan. 24 .....	36	25	.05
Jan. 25 .....	33	25	0
Jan. 26 .....	41	26	0
2015 precipitation to date	.32		
2014 precipitation to date	.17		

### January weather has been tolerable

Days seem to pass quicker in January when the weather is unseasonably warmer. Notice the weather for last week, shown above. The highs have averaged in the mid-30's and the low in the mid-20's. The average temperature for this part of January is normally below 20°.

It gets even better. The January Thaw will be working in full force through Wednesday (today), melting much of the remaining snow and boosting the average temperature for the month further above normal.

A cold front is forecast to move across the area Wednesday afternoon and evening, bringing an end to the very mild conditions as the month of January 2015 draws to a close. Thursday and Friday will be cooler, but still above normal for late January. Saturday looks rather cold, with highs mainly in the 20's.

### CHS Alumni to gather July 3, 2015

The Clark High School All-School Alumni Banquet will be held Friday, July 3, at the Clark High School. The board of directors has been meeting to coordinate and plan this event.

There will be no tent at Flat Iron Park, as the event has been moved to the Clark High School. Saturday is July 4.

### CNS to cover state legislature

South Dakota legislative news for 2015 will be reported in the *Clark County Courier* through the Community News Service program.

The 2015 legislative session began January 13. Sam Grosz will be reporting again from Pierre, providing four weeks of news coverage during the eight-week session. The news coverage will include a variety of overview stories from the session, as well as some tailored coverage with legislative pages photos and legislators.

### Newspaper Day in Pierre is Thursday

Thursday, January 29 is Newspaper Day at the State Legislature in Pierre. A legislative forum is planned for the morning followed by a legislative luncheon at noon.

A press conference with Governor Dennis Daugaard is scheduled for 1:30 in the afternoon and then it's off to legislative session.

### Several athletic contests rescheduled

Twice in early January school was canceled and several extra-curricular activities were postponed and in need of re-scheduling. On Tuesday, February 3, the Sisseton boys basketball game will be played at Clark. On Thursday, Feb. 5, the wrestling triangular, formerly at Webster, will be held at the Willow Lake gym.

## Gage Binger sentenced to 15 years in state penitentiary

Gage Binger, age 18, of Clark, South Dakota, appeared before Circuit Judge Robert L. Timm in Clark on January 22, 2015, for sentencing in connection with his earlier guilty pleas to Attempted Murder in the First Degree and Aggravated Assault.

According to Clark County State's Attorney Chad Fjelland, Judge Timm sentenced Binger to 15 years in the state penitentiary on each count, with the terms to run concurrently. The charges stem

from an April stabbing incident that occurred at a Clark residence and involved a juvenile victim. Binger was also a juvenile at the time of the incident, but was charged as an adult under South Dakota law.

In other pending court news, Judge Timm ordered a Pre-Sentence Investigation Report be prepared in the matter of State v. Kandice Schlagel. Schlagel's next court appearance is scheduled for March 23, in Clark.

## Petitions may now be circulated for local boards

Vacancies for positions on local governing boards will begin this Friday, January 30. Petitions may be circulated and need to be filed by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 27, 2015.

Position openings include:  
**Clark:** Three municipal positions are open in 2015. Council seats, all for three year terms are open in Ward I, Ward II and Ward III.

In Ward I, Belinda Hanson is the incumbent, in Ward II, Louann Streff is the incumbent and in Ward III Anthony Woodland is the incumbent. Jackie Luttrell is the City of Clark finance officer.

**Henry School:** Henry School District #14-2 holds their election the same time as city elections. Two three-year terms are open with the incumbents being Neil Jensen and Dave Fuller. Gail Thompson is the

business manager at Henry School. Clark and Willow Lake schools hold their school board elections in June.

**Garden City:** One council position will become vacant due to the expiration of the present term. Erica Benson is the incumbent for this three-year council position. Jeanette Warkenthien is the finance officer for Garden City.

**Bradley:** One three-year term position presently held by Becky Caulfield will become vacant due to the expiration of the present term. The finance officer for Bradley is Jeanette Warkenthien.

**Raymond:** One three-year term position currently held by Robert Wegman will become vacant due to the expiration of the present term.

**Petitions**  
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## KABY TV tower is removed

The KABY tower, formerly located about four or five miles west of Crocker has been removed. This happened about two weeks ago. So, digital signal channel nine, KABY, is no longer.

Jim Berman, president and general manager of KSFY television out of Sioux Falls had this to say to his KABY antenna viewing audience. "We deeply regret this inconvenience to our KABY antenna

viewers. "Our KABY tower, (located near Crocker) was severely damaged and for safety reasons, had to be taken down. As a result, over the air viewing of KABY is no longer possible, at least for the time being.

"At this point, we have no timetable for putting up a new tower, so we can't give an estimate at this time as to when or if over the air service will be fully restored."

## Dave Woodring invents and patents a frost free sewer vent cover



Dave, Robin, Garrett and Carly Woodring of Raymond, along with Aaron Helkenn of Clark have been manufacturing and distributing Dave's patented invention since this past summer.

Owner of Woodring Plumbing, seeing a solution was needed for a frost free sewer vent cover, Dave came up with a design for one which has been a

success. Patented and currently in production on the Woodring farm by Raymond, the vent covers are an answer to the frozen and ice clogged sewer vent problem. While the men work on the production side of things, Carly and Robin are working with the internet sales and the promotional side of the business on their days off from work.

Many late nights lying awake, thinking of a solution was the beginning of the invention that will help all northern region homes prevent the problem of frozen up, clogged sewer vents on rooftops in the wintertime.

It's called the Frost Free Sewer Vent Cover and it is patented by its inventor, Dave Woodring of

Woodring Plumbing in Clark, with manufacturing done at his home near Raymond.

"In my line of work, everyone had the same issue, all of the time in the winter - frozen sewer vents. I thought to myself, there has got to be a solution for this," said Woodring.

Dave's wife Robin recalls when



## Hot chocolate on a nice winter day

If lemonade is for summer, hot chocolate must be for winter.

Avery and Peyton Lee, daughters of Chris and Lisa Lee are fortunate that both sets of grandparents, Roger and Pam Lee, along with Terry and Renae Mudgett, both live in Clark.

Last Thursday, under clear, moderate winter skies,

the two Lee girls set up a 'hot chocolate' stand in front of Grandma and Grandpa Lee's house on N. Utah St. in Clark.

What was their business tip to help with sales? Free marshmallows.

January sure has seemed to fly by, helped by 20°+ above normal temperatures.

## Clark Area Chamber of Commerce looking for innovative participation

As the first month of 2015 comes to an end, Clark Area Chamber of Commerce memberships have gone out to all interested parties. The Chamber of Commerce plays an important role in hosting events and bringing people in the community together.

The annual Clark Area Chamber of Commerce meeting will be held Thursday, March 5, at noon, at the Lookout. The luncheon meeting will have a program, talk of community promotion and Chamber communication.

Greg Furness and Melanie Smith

are the co-chairmen of the Chamber. Jeanette Warkenthien is the secretary.

Said Furness, "This past year the Clark Area Chamber of Commerce has promoted many events that

**Clark Chamber**  
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as it uses solar power to warm up the outside to prevent a clog of ice or snow on the inside.

With a thermos type of design, having an air chamber between the layers, this thermal sleeve provides an insulated air space that allows for moisture laden air to escape from a vent stack all the way to the outside environment without cooling, condensing or forming ice. Hence no dangerous trip to the roof, which also may be covered with snow and ice to fix or melt a blocked sewer vent.

Woodring made a few prototypes five years ago and gave out about 20 of them to different homes and all had success with no freezing issues. "Three years ago, we thought we had better patent this, so that process began," explained Dave Woodring. "We hired the Montgomery Patent Agency out of Canonsburg, Penn. and they ran us through the process. There are a lot of hoops to jump through. They helped to keep it simple for us. After the patent now we've hired the marketing firm through the same company. They are presenting the patent to different corporations and so far there has been a lot of interest. They're looking to find a company to either buy the patent or produce it big time. Meanwhile, we're making them and selling them right now. We're the only source that is making them so far.

"We've been making about 500 a week out here on the farm. We'd like to keep about 1,000 of them ready to go to be prepared."

It's a family business with Dave, his wife Robin, their son Garrett and his wife Carly Woodring doing the work along with Aaron Helkenn who works with Dave in his plumbing business.

"Carly designed the brochure we

had printed in Clark and Carly and I will be doing some farm shows and trade shows upcoming. Carly also works with our internet sales which have been going great," said Robin Woodring.

"There is no other frost free vent on the market that is patented that we know of," added Dave.

"It's unique in that the black color absorbs heat, even on cloudy days it's been proven. You can install it yourself. It fits over your existing pipe and we can even make up a special order larger pipe if needed," continues Woodring.

"Everything we've done so far is in house. We constructed our own tables and saws in figuring out the process. We started this summer in making mass quantities on the farm. It's been a real learning curve with taxes in different states and shipping to Canada is a learning curve all its own. We want to keep everything local as much as we possibly can with our paint and supplies. Dekker Hardware carries our vent covers and we're also working with Tri-State Builders out of Sisseton, who's helping us in distribution, as is the Watertown Winelson Co. in Watertown.

"We'd like to keep manufacturing here if at all possible. It's kind of a waiting game now. We have wholesale waiting on our production part of it - how much we can manufacture at one time.

"Everyone who has tried them has had really good success and no freezing issues. It may frost over on the outside but the inside remains open with the transfer of heat and its design. Sunlight hits the black outside and heats up the air chamber which melts the ice. This is what works. And, ends Woodring - No carbon footprint."