

## TOP of the Week

### We have been in the deep freeze

Dangerous, bitter cold blanketed the entire midwest over the weekend into Tuesday morning, shutting down schools in Eastern South Dakota and all of Minnesota.

The low temperature Sunday night in Clark was -23° and the low temperature Monday morning was -25°, the coldest temperatures in over a decade for a 72-hour stretch, said weather meteorologists.

The electricity blinked off Monday evening for less than a minute, in the city of Clark.

It seems as if this latest cold snap is a thing of the past as temperatures are forecast to be in the 20°s through the weekend.

WEATHER			
Ryan Eggleston - Official Weather Observer			
	HI	LO	PR
Dec. 30	9	-5	0
Dec. 31	9	-11	0
2013 precipitation to date	25.81		
2012 precipitation to date	18.59		
Jan. 1	-2	-16	0
Jan. 2	9	-22	0
Jan. 3	35	8	tr
Jan. 4	9	-15	0
Jan. 5	-10	-23	0
Jan. 6	-5	-25	0
2014 precipitation to date	tr		
2013 precipitation to date	0"		

### Water problems at Clark Elementary

The year 2013 ended with a broken or leaking water pipe in the Voss addition of the Clark Elementary building. Superintendent Brian Heupel said that the decision was made to cap off this leaky pipe in the Voss building.

"By the time the proper caps could be placed, it had thawed enough that it blew a valve off and toilets flooded and the back room and boiler room also had water."

This has now been fixed, cleaned and back to running. Heupel stated that the first two classrooms to the west were never affected as it didn't get that far. The boiler room and the rooms behind the gray door were the ones with water.

"Except for some small heating issues, everything is back to normal," said Heupel earlier this week.

## It's no longer your mother or father's classroom

How has technology changed education in this 'Age of Instant Information'? This topic is very interesting, especially to those of us who learned the 3R's before the Internet and computers.

In an interview with Clark High School and Middle School principal Jerry Hartley last week he talked about how education has changed and how computers have enhanced the learning process.

"Education definitely is a mixture of 'old school' and technology" said Hartley as he explained how the basics have been improved by technology. "In every classroom, Pre-K through 12, Promethean boards have replaced chalk boards," he noted about Clark School and then Hartley detailed how these Promethean (digital) boards add so much more than a chalk board.

"Everything is interactive," is the big educational concept that technology has allowed. "One movement we are making with '21st Century Skills' and 'Project Based Learning' is that the teacher is more of a facilitator. The student takes more responsibility for their own learning," said Hartley.

Hartley then gave a hypothetical example of this current educational learning model using a middle school setting. "We had a situation-

problem whereby we didn't have a place in the classroom where we could store our boots and hats and outerwear. What the students did is they re-designed the classroom with this specific problem involved. A cross-curriculum was needed using math, English and business. Several projects come up where we try to combine several teachers and several curriculums."

### Testing

The uniform, state-wide test to measure academic performance in South Dakota is the Dakota Step Test. Each respective school in the state has their own report card. Principal Hartley stated that during the 2014-15 school year, the test will be given and taken online, mandatorily.

One big challenge facing South Dakota public schools is: How do we test Colony Schools?

Speaking of online, the class at Clark High School that has gone, or is going exclusively online, is English, taught by Sherray Hurlbert.

Students write (in a software program) on the computer and then send the document folder to a common folder for teacher and student. Hartley said that all classrooms are heading in the paperless direction and instead of the teacher collecting the hard copy, the document is

saved either as a personal folder for the respective classroom or as a personal folder for the respective assignment, on the school's server.

Clark School still purchases books on their 'curriculum cycle' (eg. this year social studies, next year science, etc.), but Hartley said that it is quite a savings and provides much flexibility when (English) students can read a novel online. "Remember when English class closets were piled to the ceilings with novels? Those days are gone," said the CHS principal. He added that reading digitally, not from a book, is being much more accepted as time goes on and in a few years he feels won't even be an issue.

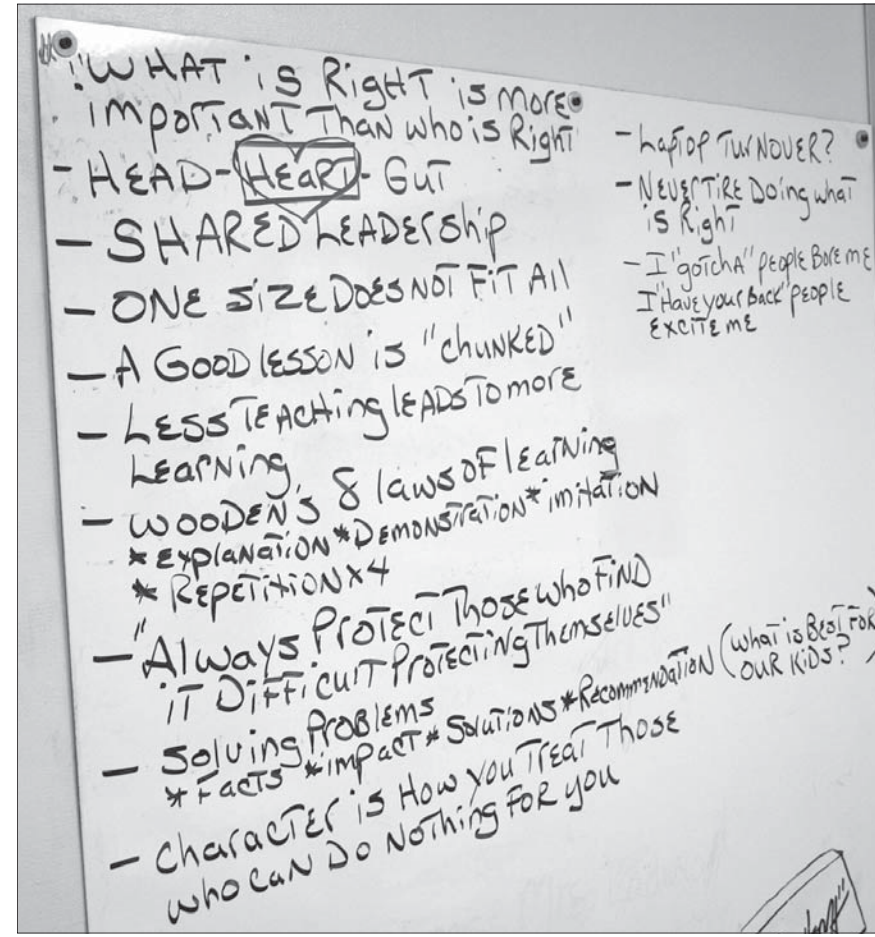
### Teaching Strategies

Another educational staple which is going the way of the dinosaur is the hour-long class lecture.

"The majority of lessons now involve some form of technology," said Hartley. "There is and has been quite a movement to eliminate the 25-minute lecture in classes and the movement is toward student-led classes with hands-on projects."

Hartley's term for dividing up a specific 52-minute class into various parts is 'chunking'. "It deals with an introduction, body and con-

### Technology (continued on page 3)



These "Hartleyisms" are on the wall in Clark High School principal Jerry Hartley's office.

Whether these ideologies were gotten by begging, or borrowed, or stolen, they are more than cliches and are words to 'educate by' rather than just live by in these 'instant information era' days.

## Wicks elected chairman of county commission

Violet Wicks was elected Chairman of the Clark County Board of Commissioners for 2014 during the January 7 meeting. Richard Reints was re-elected vice chairman.

Commissioner committee assignments for 2014 were made

and these include: Mental Health, Douglas Loomis; Extension, Reints; Weed and Pest, Wicks; Airport, Robert Bjerke, Loomis and Francis Hass; ICAP, Hass; First District, Reints; Glacial Lakes, Bjerke and Legislative Contact, Wicks.

## Mailing a letter cost to be 49¢

The cost of mailing a first-class letter will rise three cents effective January 26. The price will be 49 cents, up from 46 cents. Also, postcard stamps will rise from 33 cents to 34 cents.

A six percent rate increase will also be applied to bulk mail, periodicals (newspapers and magazines) and package service rates.

The rate increase is not permanent and is set to be phased out once the United States Postal Service (USPS) recoups the \$2.8 billion in revenue it lost between 2008 and 2011.

In September of 2013 the Postal

Service's Governors requested the rate increase based on exceptional or extraordinary circumstances.

By law, any rate increase cannot be above the Consumer Price Index (CPI) which was 1.6 percent in 2013.

They requested an additional 4.3 percent increase based on the Postal Service's precarious financial condition and the uncertain path toward enactment of postal reform legislation.

The Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) agreed that the service

### Mailing (continued on page 3)

## Clark County Farm and Home Show will be held Saturday, January 18

January means it is Clark County Farm and Home Show time. The 2014 Farm and Home Show will be held in Clark this year. It will be a one-day affair, which will be held Saturday, January 18.

Starting at 10:00 a.m. and finishing with a prior to 5:00 p.m. door prize drawing time, several programs are planned, interspersed with entertainment.

This county-wide event is still 10 days away, so the agenda is still being finalized, as some things may change a bit, but, so one can put it on the calendar and look forward to it, the initial Farm and Home Show 2014 story is being published at this time.

To repeat, the show will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 18 at the Clark School Field House. There is no admission charge.

"We want to promote our county," said Clark County Extension 4-H Program Advisor, Kim Mc-

Graw. "We are a rural county, promoting locally our great Farm and Home Show at a reasonable cost, with some great public information. Come support our local businesses."

Home economic and crop exhibits to be judged may be dropped off at the show from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Alternatively, exhibitors may contact the Extension Office to make arrangements to have goods transported to the show.

Entries can be made in several classes, including foods and canned foods, homecrafts, needlecrafts, clothing, photography and crops. Only Clark County residents will be allowed to enter home economics exhibits. All crops entered must have been grown in Clark County in 2013. Pre-registration of exhibits is not necessary and there is no entry fee.

"We will still have all the Home Exhibit lots and the Crop Show lots that we encourage our local people to participate in," says McGraw.

Several informative programs will be presented at the Farm and Home Show. The day's programs to take place at the stage in the gym, start with a Kindle Fire class presented by Sherray Hurlbert at 11:00 a.m. and Ethanol in the News which starts at 1:00 p.m.

Are you interested in bringing the Bountiful Baskets Food Co-op to Clark County? An informational community forum will take place at 3:00 p.m. An awards program, recognition of Farm Safety Poster contest winners and presentation of the Crop Improvement Scholarship winner along with door prize drawings is scheduled for 4:30 p.m.

The Farm and Home Show is being sponsored by the Clark Crop Improvement, Clark County Homemakers Club and the Clark Lions.

A lunch stand will also be available during the Farm and Home Show.

## Summer begins drought-like but moisture comes with timely rains

### ▲ The Clark County Year in Review - Part II

This is Part II, the second section of the Courier's look at the past year in Clark County. The second half of 2013 was a comfortable one, if not a memorable one, with a nice harvest and fairly pleasant fall weather. The pheasant population was down for the second consecutive year. The review of the last six months of 2013 is not all-inclusive but rather a summary of events that took place.

**July**  
 Two-year old Aksel and four-year old Hadley Gjerde of Vienna are pictured in Roy and Sara Gjerde's cornfield where the corn is progressing nicely and is definitely knee high by the 4th of July.



The 22nd Annual Clark Chamber of Commerce Potato Day continues to be a huge day for the community. The weather cooperated and every event was well attended for the 2013 Clark Potato Day.

Myra Cluts retires from the Vienna Post Office after 28 years. The Post Office officially closed on 6-28-13.

CHS graduate Kim Kaufman wins first professional tour title on the Symetra Tour.

Clark Courier continues to have colored pages after debuting in the June 26 issue.

Taking effect July 1, drivers between 14-18 are not allowed to use any hand held devices such as cell phones while driving in South Dakota.

Willow Lake's Christian Community Youth (CYO) go to Minneapolis, Minn. to help Global Health Ministries get relief items ready to send to Tanzania.

Clark's volunteer fire department members explain the details in what must be done to present the annual Fourth of July fireworks display in Clark.

Tavie Guzman's 4-H projects, her Boer meat goats, are in training in preparation for achievement days.

Oath of office is given to new Clark School Board member Todd Fjelland and returning member Robert Steffen who ran unopposed for a three year term.

Larry the llama, a new resident at the Bob Benson farm north of Clark is pictured in lush vegetation after two July rains help in area growth in the fields.

Delores and Nelson Bloomquist and Pete Lupinski are featured on their lush gardens this summer. The Bloomquists are full-time gardeners who were instrumental in the start of a local farmers market.

CHS upcoming senior Matt Loomis runs for a FCCLA National office at the convention in Nashville, Tenn. and advanced to the top 20 in the multi-step election process.

The Clark-Willow Lake Cyclone girls volleyball team bus is in a fatal three vehicle crash near Arlington, returning from a team camp in Elkton.

Clark Traders are 2013 Eastern Dakota League



Raymond artist Joan Putman's latest accomplishment has been 63 graphite pencil portraits in a series titled "All of Raymond". The collection features the pencil sketches of 'All' of the Raymond residents.

Champions with a 16-2 league mark.

Reverend Marjie Brewton celebrates 35 years as a UCC minister

Over 240 4-H Rodeo contestants compete in 'sensational' weather at the Clark County Fairgrounds in qualifying for the State Rodeo.

Fishing is as good as it has ever been in Clark County as July turns to August at area lakes with Dry Lake #1 and #2 being especially popular.

WW Tire and the Corner Diner in Clark have ribbon cuttings.

### August

Clark Potato Day is held on August 3 for the 22nd year starting off a little cool but warming up nicely for a good attendance at the event.

Eight new faces greet students at Clark School, as

classes start August 19.

There were 556 purple ribbons awarded at the Clark County 4-H Achievement Days with cooler mornings and evenings adding to the success.

Bryce DesLauriers wins 2013 Clark Golf Club Tournament.

Clark Traders win District 1B Amateur baseball championship and advance to state tournament. They lose 2-1 to Salem in the opening round.

Ulyot Building in Clark gets a new steel roof. The city building was built in 1998 with a donation from Glenn and Barbara Ulyot.

Five new staff greet students at Henry School as classes start on August 20.



The Halloween Costume Contest brought out everyone from infants to nine years old at Clark's FFA Pumpkinville festivities. Clark FFA members held their familiar pumpkin games in the Clark field house during the annual Pumpkinville activities.