



TOP of the Week

WEATHER

Ryan Eggleston - Official Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
Dec. 2	26	16	0
Dec. 3	25	8	0
Dec. 4	34	19	0
Dec. 5	35	13	0
Dec. 6	33	13	0
Dec. 7	39	27	0
Dec. 8	29	12	0
2014 precipitation to date	15.78"		
2013 precipitation to date	25.56"		

CHS Christmas concert is Thursday

Thursday, December 11 is the middle school and high school band and choir concert at Clark School. The concert will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the high school gym.

The concert band will perform *A Medieval Christmas* featuring the trumpet section, clarinet section and low brass. They will also play *All is Calm* which features Katlyn Maynard on the piano with solos by Jos Hurlbert on flute, Clarissa Daniels on alto saxophone and Angela Young on clarinet. The final selection for the concert band will be a *Polar Express Medley*.

Merry Christmas to All, *Hanukkah Song* and *Jingle Bells* and *Jungle Drums* will be performed by the sixth grade band. The fifth grade band will play *Jolly Old St. Nicholas* and *Jingle Bells*.

The Show Choir will sing *Santa Baby* and the Junior High Chorus will sing *It's Time to Deck the Hall* and *A Jolly, Jingling Carol Medley*.

All-State Chorus members will perform two numbers, *The King Shall Rejoice* and *Beautiful City*.

The high school chorus will conclude the program, singing *Do You Want to Build a Snowman?* and *Jolly Old Saint Nick!*

Lola Bartels is the band director and Stacy Andersen-Mjoun is the choir director.

Wookey Family on America's ... Videos

Were you watching America's Funniest Home Videos last Sunday? If you were fortunate enough to watch AFV on Sunday you saw the Johnny Wookey family on the set. We, at the Courier office, are now doing a feature on this event, probably for the December 24 edition. It was quite funny.

Clark Wind Farm is testing turbines

Oak Tree Energy Clark Wind Farm owner Bill Makens called this week, saying that by next Monday, all 11 turbines will be spinning and ready to go.

The substation was energized last week and all went well, he said. The turbines started spinning and testing last week, with five currently up and going.

Flatten, Stevens playing for SDSU

The South Dakota Mens and Womens Basketball teams both feature two former Cyclone stars; Skyler Flatten and Chynna Stevens, respectively.

Flatten red shirted a year ago because of knee surgery and this year plays significant minutes and a significant role from his guard position.

Stevens hit the three-pointer to tie the score against Arkansas a week ago, as the Lady Jacks then bumped off the 25th rated Razorbacks in overtime.

She starts at forward for the Lady Jacks.

Hopefully, the Courier office and the SDSU sports information department can get coordinated, so news can be published on a regular basis.



Pretty nice day for a winter sale

Even though winter doesn't officially start for another 11 days, December and winter are synonymous in these parts. Clark Sales had nice weather for their sale day last Friday. This picture only shows a portion of the nice crowd in attendance. Everyone was all bundled up to brave the elements, but all in all, Friday was a pretty nice winter day.

As cold as November was, December has been downright bearable and the forecast for this coming weekend is 50°, for Saturday. (Maybe in next week's paper there will be a golfing picture from over the weekend.)

2015-2016 school calendar is approved by Clark School Board

Finalizing the Clark School District #12-2, 2015-2016 calendar was the main item of business at the December meeting of the Clark School Board. At least it was the lengthiest item as board members familiarized themselves with the intricacies of the school calendar such as semester tests, extra-curricular practice times, teacher in-service and work days, when school should begin in late summer and how long should Christmas vacation last.

The 2015-2016 school calendar is very similar to this year's calendar and as board president Bob Steffen led discussion on this item he commented that what he's hearing from public input is all favorable. "The public likes it," he said.

Anytime Labor Day goes from Sept. 1 to Sept. 7, as it does from 2014 to 2015, it means that even if school starts on the same August date, more school days will be held before Labor Day. This matter was discussed and

because of the semester ending before Christmas, extra curricular practices beginning and Cyclone schedule coordinating with Willow Lake, the administration voiced that this calendar is the way to go and that the teachers were on board with it.

The school year will begin August 24, 2015 and end May 17, 2016. The school day will go from 8:10 a.m. to 3:05 p.m. and the high school will go from 8:10 a.m. to 3:10 p.m. in 2015-2016. The teachers contract time will stay the same, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The school board and administration felt that this movement of starting earlier in each day will not be a problem with busing and will help with extra-curricular travel and practice start time.

This calendar passed unanimously by board members Steffen, Trudi Gaikowski, Shannon Huber and Todd Fjelland. Amy

Clark School Board
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Senior Features of 2014

Margaret Geise is a self-professed transplant from Alabama

▲ One of five WWII war brides in Clark



Margaret Mary (Beckman) Geise says she was one of the World War II brides who came to Clark with her husband Vincent Geise, who served in the Navy/Coast Guard. Also fond of history, she is holding some World War II Ration Books that she saved from the 1940's. Each person had a ration book for sugar, flour, shoes, butter, canned food and other items with different colored coupons for different items. Margaret is originally from Sheffield, Alabama. She met Vince selling him a chain for his dog tags while he was in the Navy/Coast Guard.

"I call myself a transplant from Alabama but my roots are deep," smiled Margaret Geise of Clark who spent her first 19 years in Sheffield, Alabama.

Geise was born on December 8, 1923 to Fred and Mary (Byke) Beckman. Fred worked as a motorman for the street car system that ran through the town of Sheffield. Her mother was a homemaker and told Margaret, she was lucky to be here as she contracted whooping cough at six weeks old and almost didn't make it. Her siblings were Regina, Paul, Arnold and Cecilia.

Early years

"Mom raised chickens so there were always chicken chores to do, collecting eggs and of course helping when it came time to dress or butcher the chickens. We lived on the edge of town," noted Geise. "We also were expected to help in the kitchen, especially at canning time. We had a big garden and would get up early on canning days to work before it got too hot in the kitchen. It was real hot and muggy in northern Alabama."

Geise recalls growing up playing in the street out front a lot. She'd play baseball in the street with her brothers and the neighborhood kids. They also roller skated in the street she said. Getting ice at the ice plant to make ice cream in the summers was a special treat she recalls. Bike riding in town, when she was a little older was also a fun activity.

Their family traveled together in the family Oldsmobile to Tennessee on occasion to visit relatives. "Transportation back then wasn't like it is now," she added.

School days

Her first eight years of school were attended at St. Joseph's

Sunday School programs are being held in the area

Many children's Christmas programs in individual churches will be held this holiday season. Christmas celebrations will continue as Christians in the community and around the world recognize the birth of the Savior and the new life he brought to the world.

Clark services

At the Clark United Methodist Church a children's program will be held on December 24 at 3:00 p.m. during the candlelight service.

At St. Paul Lutheran, 10:30 a.m. on December 21, the Sunday School program will be held during worship.

The Assembly of God will have their church Christmas program with children and adults on Sunday, December 14 at 7:00 p.m.

At the Plymouth Congregational Church (UCC) their children's Sunday School program will be held on the 14th at 9:30 a.m. during the church service.

The Baptist Church of Clark is planning

on a Christmas program (play) with refreshments to follow on Wednesday (today) evening, December 10 at 6:30 p.m.

Willow Lake area

On Sunday, December 14 at 9:30 a.m. the United Presbyterian Church and the UCC Church's Sunday School children will present their program at the UCC. Fellowship will follow the program.

On Sunday, December 21, at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Vienna, the Sunday School will start their program at 10:30 a.m. and a potluck dinner will follow. Good Hope's Sunday School children will be joining them in their presentation.

The Sunday before Christmas is the date, December 21, for Grace Lutheran Church Sunday School program to start at 11:00 a.m.

Willow Lake Evangelical will have their

Sunday School
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Catholic School, where boys and girls attended school together.

Her high school years were spent in boarding school, the Sacred Heart Academy for Girls. Located in Cullman, Ala., she came home only for holidays and in the summers. "There was a boys school close by, but the nuns were pretty protective," said Geise. "School was school as far as I was concerned, I managed like everyone else. Choir and history were my favorites."

Geise graduated from high school in 1942 and shortly after began working at her uncle Joe Beckman's jewelry store. It was here that she first met Vince Geise.

Meeting Vince

"I was working in the store and here came this sailor man in uniform. He needed a good chain for his dog tags that didn't turn his neck green he said. With the humidity there and working hard and sweating, that was a problem he'd said. A short time later, he came back in and asked me for a date. I heard later on that he had gone down the street to the smoke shop, a local ice cream parlor and gathering place and asked the proprietor about me. He was scoping me out I guess. I had seen him in church once earlier, so I thought he'd probably be okay, so we went out to a movie together. He had the most beautiful blue eyes.

"We had to walk on our first date as gas and tires were rationed during that time. Many items were rationed. We'd get books with coupons in different colors for different items. I still have some books that I saved. (On the outside of the

Geise

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