



**Groundhog Day**  
is tomorrow. Will the  
groundhog see his  
shadow and bring us six  
more weeks of winter?

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The hometown newspaper of Mary Ann (Spilde) Hallberg, Sioux Falls, SD

## February could be cold; spring field work might be delayed

The climate outlooks for early spring have been released by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) which allows us to look to the end of the 2017 winter season.

"Precipitation outlooks for the next three months show higher likelihood of wetter than average conditions through April for the western and northern regions of the state," said Laura Edwards, Acting State Climatologist & SDSU Extension Climate Field Specialist.

Edwards added that the current precipitation outlook is consistent with what we have seen this winter season. "The southeast corner of the state is projected to have equal chances of wetter, drier or near average precipitation through April," she said.

Edwards said this projection of wetter than average conditions could be good news to those who suffered through the drought of 2016.

"Although there have been some

improvements in the severity of drought in western South Dakota, there are still some lingering concerns of having sufficient water to meet the demand, especially for agricultural production in 2017," she said.

Snow reports from the Black Hills have been close to average, if not slightly above average, so far this season.

**February**  
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### WEATHER

Ryan Eggleston - Official  
Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
Jan. 24 .....	28	21	0
Jan. 25 .....	23	17	0
Jan. 26 .....	17	3	0
Jan. 27 .....	26	8	0
Jan. 28 .....	30	18	0
Jan. 29 .....	31	22	0
Jan. 30 .....	37	26	0
2017 precipitation to date		.17	
2016 precipitation to date		.40	



## Bradley Bombers are first to be honored

On four consecutive Friday nights, the Clark-Willow Lake Cyclones are paying tribute to four former Clark County high schools. The first honoree, last Friday, at the Cyclones versus Groton Area doubleheader basketball game, was the Bradley Bombers. The last

school to close in the county was the first to be honored.

This Friday, February 3, the doubleheader opponent will be the Deuel Cardinals. The Vienna Black Panther former athletes and students will be honored at halftime of the boys varsity game.

## Willow Lake UCC Church and United Presbyterian will merge

### ▲ Services to be held at UPC

After many years of sharing special services, Bible School and Sunday School, the UCC Church in Willow Lake and the United Presbyterian Church have joined together.

Lake Gospel is the name of the new congregation that will continue weekly in the United Presbyterian Church building located in the

southwest corner of Willow Lake. They will be served by pulpit supply for now.

Nothing will be decided on what to do with the current UCC Church building (built in 1905) until a new council is formed for the new congregation in due time - which could be about a year down the road it was said by parishioners.

### UCC History

The congregation, one of the earliest organized in Dakota Territory, started meeting in 1883 in a sod shanty for Sunday School on the Bert Matthews place. A church was organized in October of 1884 and a church building was built at the original Willow Lakes town site with 16 members.

A new building was built in 1888 in the current town site of Willow Lake and dedicated in 1889. Church services were held previous to that in school buildings and stores in the new town site location surveyed closer to the Manitoba railroad. Records show that Reverend W. B. D. Gray of Lake Henry served the church as a pastor in the

summer of 1885. Reverend Smith Norton was an early minister/misionary who traveled 150 miles by rail and stage coach in the church's earlier beginnings.

A parsonage for the church was built in 1900. In August of 1904, a tornado that wrecked havoc in the town damaged the church building. Members and friends of the church

repaired and enlarged the church and installed art glass windows and a new basement. Dedication services for this rebuilt church were held in 1905.

A larger basement and two rooms were added to the west in 1925. In later years the old coal bin was re-

**Churches**  
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## February is here - An important month for winter sports

January and February have to be good for something in the frozen tundra we call paradise. Winter sports draw a huge following and Cyclone wrestling, girls basketball and boys basketball are having very successful 2016-17 campaigns. As February progresses, post season tournaments will be upon us.

This week is like all winter weeks, a very busy one on the sports calendar. This Saturday is the Big East/LCC wrestling tournament in Howard. On Tuesday, February 7 the wrestlers have a Quadrangular in Arlington.

Three doubleheaders with both the boys and girls basketball teams will begin on Friday, February 3 when Deuel comes to Clark, Saturday the games are in Willow Lake against Castlewood, then on February 7, Tio-spa Zina comes to Clark.

Friday, the Vienna Black Panthers will be honored during the halftime of the boys game. At left, sophomore guard Jacob Prouty has been quite an offensive catalyst. Friday, against Groton he scored 24 points.

Top middle, the Cyclone wrestling squad had a very competitive Lee Wolf Tournament, in Aberdeen. Both Wyatt Burke, top and Josh Weisbrod, bottom, made it into the finals, with Burke capturing second and Weisbrod winning the 132 lb. title, keeping his undefeated streak alive. Jess Karber also won the 145 title, at Aberdeen.

At right, sophomore guard Janae Kolden faces a stingy defense every time she touches the basketball. Against Groton Friday night, she scored 25 points.

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