

TOP of the Week

WEATHER

Ryan Eggleston - Official Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
Feb. 4	2	-5	0
Feb. 5	0	-14	0
Feb. 6	0	-16	0
Feb. 7	10	-13	0
Feb. 8	12	-11	0
Feb. 9	2	-14	0
Feb. 10	2	-19	0
2014 precipitation to date	25.19"		
2013 precipitation to date	1.15"		

Cracker Barrel is February 17 in Clark

The Legislative Cracker Barrel is set for Presidents Day, Monday, February 17 in Clark, starting at 10:30 a.m. This legislative coffee will be held in the Community Room of the Ulyot Building.

All District II legislators, Rep. Brock Greenfield, Rep. Burt Tullson and Sen. Chuck Welke have indicated they will be in attendance.

The question and answer session is expected to run an hour or better.

Presidents Day is Monday, February 17

Due to the observance of Presidents Day, news and correspondents' columns must be in the mail to the *Clark County Courier* by Saturday, Feb. 15. This must be done in order to ensure mail delivery to the newspaper office by Tuesday, Feb. 18 for Wednesday's publication.

The mailing address for the Courier is 119 First Ave. East, Clark, SD 57225-1712. News items and columns may also be dropped off at the *Courier* office or emailed to courier@itctel.com. Staff will be working on Monday to meet deadlines.

Clark Area meeting tonight at golf club

Don't forget the Clark Area public meeting tonight at 7:00 p.m. at the Clark Municipal Golf Course.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the community needs for a community/event center. The idea is to replace the aging clubhouse with this event center to allow us to have a larger area for events. Said Clark finance officer Jackie Luttrell, "Several ideas have come from our discussions but we want to hear from the community. We'd like a brainstorming session to determine if there is a need for this and what the needs are. If we go forward, this information would be used to determine the size and costs to meet the proposed needs."

The City is proposing to apply for a CDBG grant to assist in the funding. The remaining funds would need to come from donations, fundraisers and loans.

Kopriva to present cover cropping

The SDSU Watertown Regional Extension Center, in cooperation with the Natural Resources Conservation Service will host a free live broadcast of the National Conference on Cover Crops and Soil Health from Omaha, Neb. on February 18, 2014.

Following the live broadcast, the Watertown Center will feature invited speaker Jim Kopriva, a Raymond rancher and the 2012 South Dakota Aldo Leopold Conservation Award Winner. Kopriva is a conservation minded cattleman who has incorporated practices such as rotational grazing, no till farming and cover cropping for 15 years. He operates with his wife Karen and his son Lee. Kopriva will present "A Producer's Focus on Conservation".



Banner recognizes academic excellence

At halftime of the Cyclone boys basketball game Friday night, at Clark, the Clark Elementary students unveiled this banner, reading "Clark Elementary School Named Exemplary School by the South Dakota Department of Education."

"This is something we should be proud of," said Clark Superintendent and Elementary Principal Brian Heupel. "It is a great effort on behalf of students, parents and staff that brings this result."

Exemplary Performance Status means that Clark Elementary, in the School Performance Index, scored in the top five percent in the state.

School board accepts Superintendent Heupel's resignation

After a brief executive session at the February meeting of the Clark School Board, the board rescinded action taken at a special meeting held last Thursday, Feb. 6.

The Clark School Board then accepted the resignation of Clark School Superintendent Brian Heupel, effective at the end of the 2013-2014 school year.

This was a unanimous vote by board members Robert Steffen, Trudi Gaikowski, Amy Sass and Todd Fjelland. Board President Kim Seefeldt was absent due to vacation obligations.

Seefeldt was present at Thursday's special meeting. This meeting was held in executive session as the only agenda item was to discuss job

performance and evaluation of the school administration. The closed session lasted approximately three hours.

After the second executive session of the Thursday meeting, the school board unanimously voted to not rehire Superintendent Heupel. This action has now been rescinded and Heupel's resignation has been accepted.

Principal Jerry Hartley and business manager Heidi Sigdestad were rehired at Thursday's meeting with salaries to be set at a later date.

At Monday's regular February meeting, Steffen was acting board President in Seefeldt's absence.

The first matter of business dealt with the opening of bids for the land

adjacent to the school bus garage on the northeast edge of Clark. Dan Duenwald, of Duenwald Transportation, was the only bidder on this property, with a bid of \$6,025.

When the agenda item concerning this land bid came up later in the meeting, the board accepted this bid, with Duenwald to pay closing costs and the required survey. Duenwald was in attendance at the meeting and he told the board he is planning on building "as soon as possible." Duenwald is planning on building a storage facility/shop at this location.

Two resignations and two retirement resignations were accepted. English teacher Sherray Hurlbert and middle school teacher Jon Red-

mond will be leaving at the end of the school year. Heupel stated that Hurlbert will be at Lake Area Technical Institute next fall and Redmond will be moving to Madison.

Elementary teachers Mary Filippek and Rick Jacobson will be retiring. Also, John Brown was let out of his volleyball contract.

Staffing needs for 2014-2015 were then talked about. Heupel mentioned that Silver Lake and Fordham colonies need an additional teacher. This year, two kindergarten sections were needed, so next year two first grade sections will be necessary, the superintendent implied.

During his superintendent's report, Heupel stated that he will be in Nashville, Tenn. the remainder of this week at the national super-

intendent's convention.

In other business:

- The board approved the 2014-2015 school calendar.
- Board member Gaikowski will be attending the city equalization meeting, during the city of Clark meeting, on Monday, March 17.
- Lunch costs dropped a nickel on school-age lunches.
- The board discussed items and issues concerning the athletic co-op.
- Heupel discussed legislative issues with the board. He feels that schools will get more than three percent this year. He also mentioned that Common Core is a big issue in Pierre this year.
- The board also went into executive session for 12 minutes to discuss certified negotiations.



Michael Bethke has been working at Ken's Food Fair in Clark since June of last year. The CHS junior greets one and all with a smile and a friendly 'hello.'

What you see is what you get with "Big Mike"

After one picks up groceries at Ken's Food Fair in Clark, the question comes up, "Who is that friendly young man who helped me with the carry out?"

That gregarious young man is Michael Bethke. Mike is a junior at Clark High School and he began working at Ken's in June of 2013 through South Dakota's Project Skills Program, through C.H.S.

Project Skills is a paid work experience program for high school students with disabilities in South

Dakota. The program is a cooperative arrangement between the state vocational rehabilitation agencies and the local school districts.

Clark High School principal Jerry Hartley, talking about Michael Bethke, "I'm sure you all, at one time or another, have done some shopping at Ken's Food Fair and have been greeted by a young man with a huge smile. This young man is a product of the Project Skills Program and has done an outstanding job. He has done so well, Ken's

manager Randy Stevens has hired him for hours beyond what this program offers."

Project Skills is set up to build the student's work history, references and help them move into different and better jobs as they mature and are ready to take on new challenges. Sherry Swanson was his job coach.

In Mike's case it has worked so

Big Mike
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Winter has been blustery, snowy and downright cold!

Heading into Valentine's Day, to this point, this winter has been cold, blustery and snowy, in that order.

Wind chill advisories have been numerous in 2014 and temperatures have averaged 10-15 degrees below normal all winter.

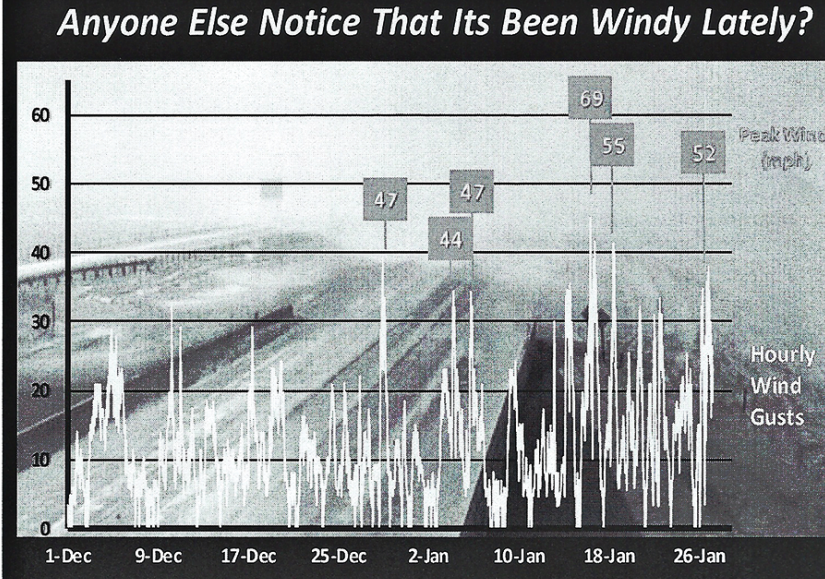
According to the Farmers' Almanac for the northern plains, the February forecast is for more of the same—cold. The National Weather Service map for February through April show Clark County again below normal, temperature-wise. For precipitation during that same time

frame it shows an equal chance of above and below.

In 2014, only ten nights have been above zero. All the rest have been zero or below zero, with ten nights being at least 15 below zero or colder.

Laura Edwards, climatologist with S.D. Extension in Aberdeen, commented last week that it has been pretty cold this winter. "A cold pattern has settled in and it looks as if much of February will remain cold. The jet stream, with a Ca-

Winter weather
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This chart shows the wind speeds and peak winds experienced at the Aberdeen Regional Airport over the last two months, December and January. Notice how the pattern changed at the end of December, with a number of very gusty days in January. These wind speeds were common across all of northeastern South Dakota and west central Minnesota.