

TOP of the Week

WEATHER

Ryan Eggleston - Official Weather Observer

| | HI | LO | PR |
|----------------------------|------|----|-----|
| Mar. 8..... | 49 | 29 | tr |
| Mar. 9..... | 37 | 24 | tr |
| Mar. 10..... | 56 | 28 | 0 |
| Mar. 11..... | 71 | 38 | 0 |
| Mar. 12..... | 66 | 42 | .03 |
| Mar. 13..... | 60 | 37 | 0 |
| Mar. 14..... | 61 | 37 | 0 |
| 2016 precipitation to date | 1.35 | | |
| 2015 precipitation to date | .56 | | |

Holy Week morning services at UCC

This Sunday is Palm Sunday, the start of Holy Week. The traditional morning worship Lenten services will begin on Monday, March 21 at 7:30 a.m. at the Plymouth Congregational Church in Clark. To start off the week, Pastor Fawn Lamb will be giving the devotions on Monday morning. On Tuesday, Reverend Mark Tracy will be giving the sermon. Wednesday's speaker will be Pastor Mindy Ehrke. On Thursday, Reverend Kevin Petersen will be officiating and on Friday, Pastor Fawn Lamb will finish up the week hosting the morning service.

A Maundy Thursday ecumenical worship service will be held on March 24 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church. A portrayal of the Last Supper will be the service and the choir will sing.

A community Good Friday service is planned for the evening of March 25 at 7:30 p.m. at the United Methodist Church in Clark. All are welcome to attend with Reverend Kevin Petersen giving the sermon.

CHS Pops concert is Tuesday

The Clark Music Department under the direction of Lola Bartels, band and Stacy Andersen-Mjoun, choral, will present a pops concert on Tuesday, March 22 at 7:00 p.m. in the high school gym. It is Senior Parent's Night.

Band groups performing are, Drumline, Jazz Band, 6th Grade Band and Concert Band. The concert band will perform "Livin' La Vida Loca", "Just Give Me a Reason" and "Pop and Rock Legends: Neil Diamond".

"Skyfall" and "Forget You" will be performed by the Jazz Band. The sixth grade band will play "Everything is Awesome" and "We are Young".

The 9-12th grade choir will sing, "Bring me Little Water, Silvery" by Moira Smiley, "High School Musical", arranged by Audrey Snyder, "Irving Berlin's America", arranged by Roger Emerson and "Hair a Choral Medley featuring Hair/Good Morning Starshine/Aquarius/Let the Sunshine In", arranged by Greg Gilpin.

County terms expire this year

The four-year terms of three county employees, the two-year term of one county employee and two county commissioner seats expire and are up for election this year.

The Clark County States Attorney, County Coroner and County Treasurer are all four-year terms and up for election this year. The Clark County Register of Deeds is a two-year term at this time because of an appointment.

Also, the terms of County Commissioners in District II, currently held by Doug Loomis, and District IV, presently filled by Bob Bjerke, are up for election this year.

The deadline to file petitions to run for any of these offices is March 29 for Republican and Democrat candidates and April 24 for Independent candidates.



Seniors participate in Government Day

Seniors from Clark High School participated in Government Day Monday at the Clark County Courthouse, sponsored by the Clark American Legion Posts of Clark County. Several girls from the C.H.S. Class of 2016 observed the Clark County Board of Commissioners meeting. Seniors in the back include, left to right, Angela Young, Emily Binger, Marcie Foster, Kathryn Paulson, Savannah Fisher and Hannah Gruenwald.

The Clark County Commissioners, left to right, are Violet Wicks, Doug Loomis, Chair-

man Richard Reints, Bob Bjerke and Francis Hass.

The government classes listened to various American Legion speakers, viewed the circuit court in action and visited the various county offices, as well as observing the County Commissioners meeting. The Clark American Legion Auxiliary served lunch for all the Government Day participants at the Clark American Legion Hall.

"Don't ignore persistent heart warning signs," says Sandy Luke

"If you are feeling any chest pains at all, numbness or shortness of breath, don't put it off!" warns Sandy Luke of Clark, who on August 18, 2014 had to undergo a triple bypass and an aortic valve replacement with an open-heart surgery.

Seeing her mother go through open-heart surgery in 1993 and her sister Marcia go through the same in 2000, she wasn't eager to go to the doctor when the nagging feeling that something may be wrong with her heart - wouldn't go away.

"I would get a burning feeling in my upper chest area (right below her clavicle bone and in the upper sternum area) after I mowed the yard a while or would haul things up the stairs. I'd sit down a while and it would go away. But then it would always come back when I exerted myself. I put it off a long time."

Probably too long Luke realizes now as she found out later, had she gone in sooner maybe an angioplasty may have done the job versus open-heart surgery.

Luke also noticed that when doing hair, (she is a beautician and owns Sandy's Cut and Curl) that often her hands and arms would fall asleep. "I would have to stop and just talk to my client for a bit so they wouldn't notice something was wrong."

"It got to be where I had to stop mowing my yard and take a lot of breaks. Then I had the thought - to myself - you know what? Someday Bill is going to find me dead out in the yard. Bill is her husband of many years.

It was finally getting screened at a mobile unit - a heart screening truck per se, that got things in motion.

was. I had Bill go in, too. His level pass and a new aortic valve put in."



Sandy Luke and her husband Bill went through some tough months back in the fall of 2014. Feeling better than ever now after her open-heart surgery, she warns others to not ignore the symptoms one may be feeling with heart problems. Sandy's quilt and her story were featured in a recent Sioux Falls publication as well as one of the success stories at a recent 'Go Red for Women' event for heart awareness.

was nine. Mine was 2500."

Another reason for suspicion for Luke was being told by the nurses when she gave blood (she was a regular donor for years) that her heart beat was irregular. "There's a skip in there", they would tell her.

After the screening, Luke acquired a cardiologist. An angioplasty was scheduled following medication. However the angioplasty - a procedure used to open blocked arteries in the heart, wouldn't work for her it was discovered.

"My arteries were too calcified in my case so an angioplasty wouldn't work. I ended up having a triple by-

She is now on a regimen of baby aspirin.

Her recovery time was cut short and altered a bit however two weeks later.

Sandy's surgery was on August 18, 2014.

Her husband Bill underwent surgery in Omaha, Neb. two weeks after Sandy. His was for the removal of a cancerous tumor on the floor of his mouth and a reconstructive surgery that followed in September.

"Bill worried for me and then I worried for him. It was a tough

Luke (continued on page 3)

This is National Ag Week

March 13 - 19, 2016 is proclaimed as National Ag week in South Dakota.

Every farmer in the United States produces enough food to feed 155 people in the world every day, with that number climbing every year (was 151 last year and 129 people 16 years ago).

Agriculture is our state's number one industry with a \$25.6 billion annual economic impact and it generates more than 30 percent of our state's economic activity. Ag and its associated industries employ more than 115,000 or one in five South Dakotans.

South Dakota is home to 31,300 farms with an average size of 1,383 acres. Ninety-eight percent of farms and ranches in South Dakota are family owned and operated.

Whether one produces the food

and fiber or just consumes it, pride should be taken in American agriculture.

With our spring like temperatures of late, many area producers are thinking of the upcoming growing season and getting in the fields.

"Everybody's getting excited with this warmer weather," said SDSU Extension Agronomy Field Specialist David Karki who works out of the Watertown Extension Regional Center. "The winter wheat fields in this region are starting to green up, but it's too early to see things growing yet."

"Some farmers out in western South Dakota, very few however, are getting their spring wheat in."

Small grains need at least 35-40

Ag Week (continued on page 3)



Teacher salary increase monies is topic of school board conversation

The atmosphere was one of optimism at the March meeting of the Clark School Board. The optimism was caused by education bills passed by the State Legislature and signed by the Governor, regarding education reform, specifically teacher salaries.

It is well documented that South Dakota Governor Dennis Daugaard created a Blue Ribbon Task Force on Education a year ago and this year in his State of the State address urged the State Legislature to create new money for education, asking for a .05¢ raise to the state sales tax.

This is a simplified version of House Bill 1182, but \$67,000,000 is earmarked for public education, but details still need to be worked out and that is what Clark superintendent Luanne Warren commented about at Monday's board meeting.

"It was a historic day for education in South Dakota," said Luanne Warren, Clark's superintendent of schools. "It is nice to see a priority for education. On the state level pieces are being put together, concerning the \$67,000,000 to raise teacher's salaries. It is still a puzzle." Meetings are being held this month into April, tying up these loose ends. "Lots of wonderful things happened for education, in Pierre, this year. These administrative meetings in March and April will tell us about where and when the dollars will go. It will only go to our full time teachers."

The school board met in executive session following the public meeting Monday, to discuss negotiations.

A school board meeting, for the

Teacher salary (continued on page 3)