

# Clark County Courier

The voice of Clark County since 1880



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Remember to set your clocks **AHEAD 1 hour** Saturday night

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The hometown newspaper of Dixie (Luvaas) Vella, Bloomington, MN

## TOP of the Week

### WEATHER

Ryan Eggleston - Official Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
Feb. 24 .....	32	10	.04
Feb. 25 .....	10	-12	0
Feb. 26 .....	2	-15	0
Feb. 27 .....	12	-15	0
Feb. 28 .....	25	5	0
Mar. 1 .....	23	0	0
Mar. 2 .....	28	0	.02
2015 precipitation to date	.53"		
2014 precipitation to date	.60"		

### Clark Chamber to meet Thursday

The Clark Chamber of Commerce will hold their annual meeting this Thursday, at 12:00 noon, at the Lookout. All members are urged to attend. It will be a luncheon meeting.

On the agenda will be: the presentation of financials for 2014; three board memberships are available; Robin Hartley and/or Cassi Bloom will be in attendance to talk ideas for Potato Days; and discussion of a membership spring or early summer meeting, with entertainment.

### City of Clark will need election in Ward III

An election will be needed in the City of Clark, for Ward III. Tony Woodland is the incumbent for this position, but he did not take out a petition. Filing petitions for this seat are Lon Reidburn, Niki Smidt and Andrew Zemlicka.

In Ward II, Louann Streff filed a petition and as no others filed, she will serve three more years, beginning in May.

No one filed in Ward I. Belinda Hanson is the incumbent and she chose not to file a petition. A one-year appointment will be needed for this seat.

No other town board elections are known at this time.

### Tuesday blizzard shuts things down

With names for adverse weather like 'Polar Vortex' and 'Alberta Clipper', what does one call a 12-hour four inch snow event with 40 mph winds?

The answer would have to be: 'just a good old-fashioned, South Dakota blizzard'. That is what we had, as Monday night into Tuesday, the snow fell, followed by a very gusty wind.

Schools were closed on Tuesday, as were some businesses. As the Courier goes to press, it is 8" and a northwest wind of 25 mph.

### World Day of Prayer, Friday at Clark UMC

The Clark United Methodist Church women are hosting World Day of Prayer on Friday, March 6 beginning at 9:30 a.m. at the church in Clark. The guest speaker for the event will be Carol Olson from Clear Lake.

World Day of Prayer is an international ecumenical Christian laywoman's initiative which brings Christians of all denominations and traditions together to observe a common day of prayer each year. It is run under the motto of "Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action" and is celebrated annually in over 170 countries. World Day of Prayer has its beginnings in the U.S.A. in 1887 and since 1927, the date for the observance has been the first Friday of March.

## 2015 tax assessments reflect a continuing increase in Clark County ag land values

The 2015 Clark County assessment valuations were mailed out last week. The value of your property is dependent upon what type of property you own and where it is located.

"Continuing the trend in recent years, ag land valuations are again increasing this year," stated Clark County Director of Equalization Jarvis Reidburn. Reidburn noted that land is assessed on the average agriculture income per acre for the county using an eight-year average, from 2006 to 2013, excluding the highest and lowest year.

Crop revenue per acre has increased from \$366 per acre in 2014 to \$418 per acre in 2015. This increase has a direct effect on the assessment of ag land. Sales of land are no longer used in valuing ag land.

"Using sales of ag land would, for example, mean an increase of roughly three to four times the assessed value of ag land property," Reidburn said.

South Dakota State University, along with the United States Department of Agriculture and the National Agriculture Statistics Service, provide the data to establish the crop revenue.

"The collected data on income from the major crops grown and cash rent are used to determine valuation," explained Reidburn.

The Director of Equalization Office arrived at a total valuation for 2015 of \$1,033,000,000, an increase of \$143,000,000 over the value of \$890,000,000 calculated in 2014.

"Our average assessed value will go from \$1,290 per acre in 2014 to \$1,521 per acre for 2015," said Reidburn, while noting that ag land in Clark County continues to be as-

essed at 28 percent of the average sales price.

The Director of Equalization reminds all that the assessments are factored to 85 percent each year, meaning that the value on one's assessment notice is higher than what the taxable value will be.

"The amount of increase in valuation does not mean the tax will increase that same percentage. Factors such as levies, budgets and current level of assessments are all considered in the valuation equation."

The highest per-acre price for land sold in Clark County last year was in Washington Township, where the selling price hit \$7,159.

Concerning non-ag property, sales prices of real property are compared to assessed value to determine that, during the past year, commercial and residential property showed assessments of 95% of market prices.

In 2014, building permits totaling approximately \$4,000,000 were issued.

Recent legislation in the South Dakota Legislature converts mobile homes to real estate, which will not increase their assessed value. Once the property is converted, mobile homes will no longer need to be registered.

Reidburn requests that property owners look at the assessment notice and consider whether their property is assessed higher than market value. Appeals must be filed with the local Board of Equalization by March 12, 2015.

Property owners with any question should contact the assessor's office at 605 532-3751. Local boards of equalization will be meeting between March 16 and 20.

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## The madness in March is upon us

March is the month for South Dakota high school boys and girls region and state basketball tournaments.

This Friday is the Region 2A girls basketball tournament, at Brookings. The Clark-Willow Lake Cyclones will be playing the Sioux Valley Lady Cossacks with the winner qualifying for the State A Tournament, March 12-14, in Watertown.

Above, senior Cyclone forward Kandace Kolden, guarded by Aavrie Kielty of Deuel, looks to score against the Cardinals, in the opening round of Region 2A. Clark-Willow Lake defeated Deuel 56-15 and then knocked off Hamlin, 63-40, at Hamlin, to

gain a berth in the Region 2A title game. Against Hamlin, Kolden scored a career-best 19 points.

On the boys side, Region 2A has just begun. The first round game was to be Tuesday. The weather forced the first round to be on Thursday.

Clark-Willow Lake, the number one seed in Region 2A will now host the semifinal game on Saturday, rather than the originally scheduled Thursday. On Saturday afternoon, the Cyclone boys will face the winner of the Deubrook Area versus Redfield-Doland winner in Clark.

The Region 2A championship is set for Tuesday, March 10, at Webster.

## At 97, Clara embroiders morning and evening



Clara Heer likes to keep busy. After a life spent working outdoors more so than indoors, one can currently find Heer embroidering away on her favorite material, flour sack dish clothes. Shown above with several of her creations, Heer continues to work on her needlework, mornings and evenings and sometimes in between.

From walking behind a team of horses discing a field when she was 11 years old to embroidering dish clothes too numerous to mention, Clara Heer has kept busy all of her life.

Currently a resident of Wookey's Assisted Living Center in Clark, Heer enjoys continuing to stay busy, even helping to stack plates and clean off tables after the meal.

She embroiders in the morning, afternoon and the evening working around her schedule at the Assisted Living Center and does all her needle work without the help of glasses.

"I think dresser scarves are what I started with, learning to embroider from my mother. She would give them away for Christmas presents," recalled Heer. "I remember in the eighth grade, my teacher had me embroider around an appliquéd fork and spoon she did on a towel. I finished it in about 15 minutes during our craft/free time at school. Then she took it home and washed and ironed it and it shrank. I can still see that fork and spoon all puckered up. It probably wasn't mercerized thread like it all is now. You should iron the back of your embroidery work - not the

front. French knots 'go funny' when they're ironed - that's why I make a different stitch instead of a French knot. I just hit the same spot twice and raise it up a little, it holds up better.

"Whatever comes in my head - that's what color comes out," continues Heer who was working on a towel with butterflies and flowers. "Rainy days - that's when I embroidered or did work in the house when I was younger. Otherwise I was outside."

### Working outside

"I was anxious to work, so I came two weeks early," giggles Heer when telling of her birth on their farm south and east of Doland. She was the second out of nine children born to Ollie and Mary Heer.

"I'm an outside girl so I was 'the hired man' on our farm. My dad depended on me and knew I could do the work. I started in the field at 11 years old behind a team of four horses pulling a disc. My dad and I worked together in the field. 'Watch how I do this' he would say and I later learned how to collar and hook up the team myself in my teen years. Four horses would be needed for the smaller plow and five horses for the bigger one. Both were two bottom plows and you'd have to walk behind the horses and the equipment.

"I never had a run away in my life," said Heer of her horse teams. She remembers making loose hay

Clara (continued on page 3)

## Clark City Dump to open in approximately two months

The March meeting of the Clark City Council was an hour long affair, with routine business being handled. The department update feature of the meeting provided the most interest, with a variety of discussions and motions.

Street superintendent Roger Collins provided most of the input in this area and he began by talking about the city's dumpsite. Collins notified the council that the dump recently passed a four-year inspection and he told the council that dumping laws have become much stricter and the inspector felt Clark's dump rates were far too low.

Collins then gave dump rate recommendations to the council and these rates were immediately passed. Cardboard and styrofoam are two recyclable items that can't be in the dump and then Collins noted, depending on the weather, that the dump will open in late April or early May.

The topic with Collins then turned to chip sealing prices. The city is planning to do 17 blocks this summer, at a cost of approximately \$39,000.

North Kansas Street will also be re-done this summer and the council will decide at the April meeting if hot mix is used or if five inch concrete will be placed.

Finance officer Jackie Luttrell then reported on her Pierre trip, as the city is attempting to gain funds,

grants and loans, from the state for the retention pond project, with a multi-million dollar price tag.

"The presentation went fine," she said, and then reported on Senate Bill 135, which would allow municipalities to tax for one additional cent, for projects such as this. "It would allow us to pay off the loan in 20 years rather than 30 years, if it passes," she continued. SB 135 could come out of committee later this week.

### In other business:

▲ A 10-minute executive session was held, for personnel discussion, with no motion forthcoming.

▲ The council will meet Monday, March 16, at 7:00 p.m. This meeting will begin with the equalization meeting. Often times this meeting is used to begin summer recreation talk.

▲ Police chief Jeremy Wellnitz shared that it is going well with the new patrolman Nathan Nickerson. The February police report includes: A total of 1,008 miles driven. Total traffic stops were 34 and total calls attended were 63.

▲ Election workers for the Ward III April election were named and pay was set.

▲ A liquor license was approved for the March 27 Pro Pheasant Banquet.

Clark City (continued on page 5)



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