

## TOP of the Week

### WEATHER

Ryan Eggleston - Official Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
April 12.....	68	26	.04
April 13.....	68	29	0
April 14.....	78	49	0
April 15.....	62	49	.14
April 16.....	68	39	.36
April 17.....	56	38	.06
April 18.....	57	34	.82
2016 precipitation to date			3.10
2015 precipitation to date			1.49

### Area elections held on Tuesday, April 12

Municipal Election Day was Tuesday, April 12. Several elections were held in the area.

At Henry School, the 10-year, \$300,000 opt out of the tax freeze was defeated, 98 votes to 82 votes.

Also at Henry School, Nicole Watson won re-election to the Henry School Board, defeating challenger Mark O'Neill, 107 votes to 73 votes.

At Vienna, Toby Kangas defeated Elmer Anderson by one vote and Ken Lusk by two votes to gain a three-year council position on the Vienna town Board.

Erica Benson defeated Norman Alexander, 16 to 10, to remain on the Garden City Town Board for a three-year term. David Waples ran unopposed.

### Jury trial ongoing at Clark courthouse

A jury trial is taking place this week at the Clark County Courthouse. Colin Anderson, legal age, of Crocker, and formerly of South Africa, is charged with four counts of rape in the first degree perpetrated on a minor less than 13 years of age.

The trial started on Monday of this week, with jurors being selected and seated, Monday. Opening arguments were heard Tuesday and the trial is slated to last most of the week, with Judge Carmen A. Means presiding.

### C.H.S. spring concert is Tuesday

The Clark Music Department under the direction of Lola Bartels, band and Stacy Andersen-Mjoun, choral, will present a spring concert on Tuesday, April 26 at 7:00 p.m. in the high school gym. It will also be awards night and senior recognition for the musicians.

Band groups performing are: fifth grade band playing three songs; sixth grade band playing "Cedar Lakes Overture" and "Primitivo". The concert band will present, "Fortune Teller's Daughter", "Olde English Hymn" and "Renegade Dances".

High school choir pieces include, "Baba Yetu" and "Pom Peii". The Clark High School seniors will perform "On Top of the World". Show choir's song is "Bellas Finals", choral highlights from Pitch Perfect.

Clark County Rainfall 4/12 - 4/18	
* Bradley 1.01"	
* Crocker 1.07"	
* Raymond 1.50"	
* Clark 1.42"	
* Carpenter 1.15"	
* Garden City 1.25"	
* Henry 1.10"	
* Vienna .95"	
* Willow Lake .75"	

## "My lilacs are too tall"

▲ And they hardly bloom anymore

With spring upon us, thoughts of gardeners and homeowners lean towards a new season of improvements in one's yard.

Shrubs such as lilacs over many, many years tend to get too thick and too tall for their own good. For them to flower again - care must be taken in their rejuvenation.

In visiting with Jon Livermore, community forester for the South Dakota Department of Ag, Division of Resource, Conservation and Forestry, he had this to say about lilacs and similar shrubs.

"Shrubs such as lilacs, azaleas, chokecherries, currants, early bloom spireas and juneberries should be pruned or rejuvenated after flowering. Waiting until after the flowering is done will reform those bud forming branches to set more buds for the next year and give them the rest of the year to do it.

"Renewal pruning is more or less starting over - cutting the shrub off three inches up to 12 inches above the ground level. For a nice looking spread from the ground up - more towards three inches looks nicer.

"If one renewal cut a lilac, it only grows about three feet a year. Not to mention, it would leave a hole.

"Another method would be to gradually work on removing about 25-30% of the shrub over a three year period to let the plant rejuvenate or reform itself.

"You never want to throw the whole plant into shock by cutting too much at once. Say you have a lilac hedge that's 15 feet tall or so. It would work best to cut out all of the dead ones first. Sometimes something as simple as cleaning out

the dead ones and pruning down some (not all) of the tall 'ratty' ones makes a difference. (Pruning as in cutting to the ground level.)"

When a bush gets too thick, the newer shoots won't get enough light to grow properly. (Hence a hedge of tall and ratty mixed with numerous small and puny shoots.)

Say you had three big stems, one dead, one okay and one good. Pull out the dead one and trim down

to the ground the okay one and leave the good one to grow. Cutting down - pruning the one will release hormones that stimulate branching in the remaining branches. The sprouts will fill in the gap you created.

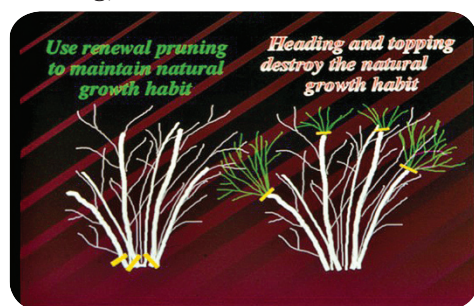
"Overall you don't want to pull much more than a third of the bush out with your rejuvenation pruning," advised Livermore.

With an old tall lilac hedge - with 15 or so foot branches, trim several down to six feet, prune some down to the ground and leave two thirds of it. Don't trim all of your 15 footers, that would be too hard on the bush. It would be exposed to sun scald, not used to being in the sun as much and would wilt and possibly die.

Stagger your pruning over two to three years and in three to five years after that you should have your flowering lilacs again.

Without care, three to five years from now, you'd still have the tall ratty and short puny shoots mixture - same bush, different day/year.

Lilacs (continued on page 3)



The Wally and Kathy Knock family received the FFA Family of the Year Award during the State FFA Convention, April 10 in Brookings.

## Words and deeds earn Knock family "FFA Family of the Year" Award

By: Gerri Ann Eide, SD FFA Foundation Exec. Dir.

The SD FFA Foundation named the annual "FFA Family of the Year" award, honoring a family's long term involvement in the SD FFA/Agriculture Education program. The 2015 recipient of this award is the Wally and Kathy Knock family, including Wally and Kathy along with their children and their spouses Eric and Roxanne, Jared and Kati, Ashley and Tony, and Jennifer and Joe as well as future FFA members Rylee, RaeAnna, Rielle, Millie, Ansley, and Addy. The award was presented on April 10, during the State FFA Convention in Brookings.

"The purpose of this award is to recognize a SD FFA family that has

gone the extra-mile for the FFA at the local and state levels through their words and deeds. The actions of the entire Knock family through multiple generations have modeled the FFA mission ... developing premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agriculture education. We are glad we could recognize them with this special award," said Gerri Ann Eide, SD FFA Foundation Executive Director.

The Knocks have been very active at the chapter, state, and national levels of FFA. They put the phrase from the FFA Creed, "a faith, born not of words but of deeds" into action. Wally and Kathy own and operate a grain and livestock farm by Willow Lake. They

have actively supported FFA for more than 40 years. As the parents of four past FFA members of the Willow Lake FFA chapter, and Wally a past Willow Lake FFA member himself, their association with the blue corduroy jackets spans decades. Wally and Kathy are both active supporters of their local FFA chapter and actively support each project, class and activity offered. The Knocks frequently help judge state proficiencies and star awards, provide an extra hand at the State Fair, and hand out awards at convention. Several volunteered numerous years assisting with State Convention preparation and execu-

Knock family (continued on page 3)

## Spring wheat is being planted - rains help the soil profile



Wind, rain, sun and field work are the basic elements of spring in South Dakota, and all can be observed in this photograph captured by Bill Makens near Oak Tree Lodge earlier in the week.

However, this driver is going to have to face facts—his tractor won't be able to catch up with a leprechaun and his pot of gold.

"The winter wheat looks good," commented David Karki, Agronomy Field Specialist out of the Wiertown Extension Center. "The wheat that was planted in the former smaller grain fields is a little ahead of wheat planted on former soybean ground. The wheat that is a little ahead shows to be bushing out a little already."

In last week's interview on Friday, it was mentioned that it is pretty dry in the area and we could use a shot of rain. The rains did come however with 1.42 inches of moisture that fell over the weekend through Monday.

Up till then, our part of the state registered abnormally dry within the U.S. Drought Monitor and to the north of our county - even drier.

Last year it was also a dry spring coming off of a lighter snowfall winter, but we caught up with rains from mid-May throughout the growing season.

"Fields were testing dry up until now at the NE Research farm located 10 miles west of South Shore. Soil temps there read 50° in the top four inches."

Continues Karki, "Wheat, oats and barley are more cool season crops that don't like the heat for growing like the warm season crops - corn and soybeans.

"Looking back on 25-30 year averages (in our part of the state), May 10 to May 25 are the average dates for planting corn. Soybean planting dates are on average about one week later. May 5 - June 25 is the planting window for corn and soybeans although soybeans can handle better than corn being planted a little later."

Results from a prospective planting survey taken last winter throughout the nation show that Spring wheat (continued on page 3)



Boys and Girls State representatives were recently selected at Clark High School. Boys State is held on the Northern State University campus in Aberdeen and Girls State is held at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion.

In the front row are Joslyn Hurlbert, Joice Nelson, Jen Hurlbert and Chantell Wren. In the back are Kenneth McGowan and Joe Streff.

## Boys and Girls Staters selected at C.H.S.

South Dakota Boys and Girls State delegates have been selected at Clark High School for the 2016 sessions.

Chosen as delegates for Girls State are Jos Hurlbert, Jen Hurlbert, Joice Nelson and Chantell Wren.

South Dakota Girls State is an intensive week of training in citizenship and government. It is an effort on the part of the American Legion Auxiliary to bring to the girls of South Dakota a knowledge of the fundamental principles of American government through actual practice and control.

Each delegate must be an outstanding member of her class and have a definite interest in Ameri-

can government, with a willingness to take initiative and assume responsibility. Students are selected based upon their leadership, character and honesty, physical fitness, scholarship, cooperativeness and entering their senior year of high school in the fall.

Joslyn Hurlbert, daughter of Russ and Sherray Hurlbert of Raymond is involved in FFA, jazz and concert band, National Honor Society, student council, oral interp, one act and All-School play and 4-H. She is sponsored by the Raymond Legion Auxiliary.

Jen Hurlbert, daughter of Russ and Sherray Hurlbert of Raymond is involved in FFA, jazz and concert band, National Honor Society, student council, oral interp, one act and All-School play and 4-H. She is sponsored by the Raymond Legion Auxiliary. Boys and Girls State (continued on page 3)