

# Clark County Courier

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SUMMER Begins on Saturday

FATHER'S DAY SUNDAY

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## Straight-line winds uproot trees

It seems as if the wind has been blowing since forever. Sunday night into Monday morning is when the damage was done. Mary Nelson said the time was 2:23 a.m. when the wind knocked over three large evergreen trees at her house on the north side of US 212, six miles east of Clark. It is those same trees that her dad, Lavern Kranz decorated each Christmas for many years. The picture below the Nelson tree is the ash tree that went down at the Gerry and Annette Helkenn home, a mile south of Nelson's. The Helkenns reported their side-by-side was moved about 15 feet around the corner of the garage and much patio furniture was also damaged. Ryan Vipond, a meteorologist with the Aberdeen branch of the National Weather Service stated that the

culprit of this weather system was the rain front that moved from the James Valley to the Big Sioux Valley. "With thunder showers, sometimes hefty winds mix down from the clouds causing this quick burst phenomenon," said Vipond. The community of Henry was also hit hard and 56 mph winds were recorded in Watertown. A DOT site in Clark County reported 82 mph winds at 2:27 a.m. Monday. The upper right picture shows the tree being removed along 6th Ave. N.E. in Clark. It is believed that this tree caused the power to be out on the north side of Clark from around 2:20 a.m. to almost sunrise. The lower right photo is at Dickinson Park, in Clark.

## Potato Day 2020 is canceled

The Clark Chamber of Commerce announced after their meeting last Wednesday that there would be no Potato Day, the first Saturday in August, 2020. The decision comes in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, which requires social distancing and limits large gatherings. "The decision did not come easy," stated Clark Chamber of Commerce president Tammy Rusher speaking on behalf of the Chamber board. "Potato Days is canceled. We're all sad. Planning and pulling this weekend off every year is fun for us, but after careful consideration and following up with our community members and the people who volunteer to make this weekend happen, we unfortunately can not do it this year." The Chamber is planning on going forward with Potato Day in 2021. "Watch for our 2021 up-

**Potato Day**  
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## It's dry - but Mount Rushmore fireworks show slated for July 3

Nick Lowrey, South Dakota News Watch Abnormally dry conditions and a persistent risk of summer wildfires in the Black Hills of South Dakota make the fireworks display planned for July 3 at the Mount Rushmore National Memorial an unnecessary, potentially devastating and expensive event, according to one fire expert with intimate knowledge of the region. Bill Gabbert, former fire management officer for Mount Rushmore and six other national parks in the region, said the controversial fireworks show that could attract 7,500 people, possibly including President Donald Trump, would be "ill advised" even when conditions are



**Mount Rushmore**  
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The state has taken safety measures to try to ensure the fireworks at Mount Rushmore on July 3 can be held without incident. Photo: South Dakota Department of Tourism



## Driver's Education has begun this summer

If one lives in the city of Clark a common sight this June is the Driver's Education car. The Driver's Ed class is taught by Joel Huber. All students are required to have 30 classroom hours and six hours of behind-the-wheel instruction. Above freshman Danielle Batchelor of Clark, was behind the wheel as it was her turn for instruction last Friday. With COVID-19 restrictions this year, it's changed in how instruction can take place explained Mr. Huber. "We all wear masks and only one student in the car at a time, the car is wiped down between drivers and we're social distancing in the classroom. It's just what we have to do this year," ended Huber.

## Small grains could see harvest in July this year

"Everything in general is looking pretty good right now," reports David Karki, SDSU Extension Agronomy Field Specialist regarding crops in Clark County and the surrounding area. "Harvest may go earlier this year with the small grains, maybe mid July to July 30," continued Karki. "The winter wheat had a warmer winter this year. Some of the cover crops from last year, the broad leaf crops, had some re-growth which is a sign of a little warmer winter than usual. Winter wheat, spring wheat and oats are all looking good." The corn that was planted in April this year suffered a little with some freezing temps in early May

that froze off a few leaves, but they recovered nicely it was explained. "Some corn fields by Watertown and some east of Clark were bruised a little with some small hail last Thursday night." The corn is in variable stages of growth now with its average being the four-leaf or five-leaf stage. Planting times were spread out from middle April to May. Soybean planting is all wrapped up noted the agronomist with some areas being a little delayed due to sporadic rains, especially those west of Clark. With the alfalfa, the first cutting is being cut around the area and is drying down in between rains.

"All in all, it's been a good planting season and a good growing season so far," ended Karki.

WEATHER			
Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer			
	HI	LO	PR
June 9	85	62	1.47
June 10	62	51	.43
June 11	72	51	0
June 12	78	53	0
June 13	85	58	0
June 14	85	59	0
June 15	87	60	0
2020 precipitation to date			7.12
2019 precipitation to date			12.50