

## 92 mph straight winds diminish city tree population

# Tuesday evening storm wreaks havoc on trees

A 92 mph wind that lasted what seemed about that many seconds, (although in actuality it was approximately 10 minutes) did significant damage in the city of Clark and surrounding areas last Tuesday evening.

"Tornadic magnitude winds," is how Ryan Luecke of the National Weather Service in Aberdeen described the event. "It was a straight-line wind that uprooted trees, caused tree limbs to break and did property damage," Luecke stated.

He continued, "wind gusts measured 92 mph. A storm chaser had a set of instruments on his vehicle and measured that just before 7:00 p.m. about a mile south of Clark. That was the biggest one of any we saw in the area."

Nine total tornadoes were reported Tuesday in northeast South Dakota, but none in Clark County. One was spotted in Roberts County, one in Brown, one in Spink and one on the Day/Marshall County border. "These tornadoes were EFO and EF1 rated, with 110 mph winds," noted Luecke, and he then told of being in the two-man damage survey team which came to Clark last Wednesday.

"Our first task was to determine what the base cause of destruction was, whether it was tornado or straight-line winds.

"We looked at the way the damage occurred. The straight line

winds came from the southwest and all trees were tipped to the northeast. If it had been a tornado, there would have been damage strewn in different directions. It was all southwest to northeast."

Luecke then talked of the significance of receiving 2.78" of rain in a 24-hour period. "The dry ground definitely soaked up the rain and one should be able to see the 'greening up' of everything this week.

The wind arrived in Clark at 6:58 p.m. "Lots of trees went down in Clark, like sometimes there are extra-strength pockets of enhanced winds," Luecke said. "As far as a list of exactly who suffered what damage, it would be impossible to list, but many residents suffered tree damage and some reported property damage." Power was out in Clark for about a half hour.

"Besides all of the trees down in town, the biggest damage was to the Clark County Highway Department building on northeast Cloud St.," said Clark County Emergency Management Director Michael Gravning. "Some building damage at area farms was also reported and Garden City and Bradley also had extensive tree damage.

"Much tree damage," is how Scott Finstad described the Tuesday night wind damage, in Bradley. "I didn't hear of any damage to structures, but my rain gauge got knocked over, so I can't tell you how much rain there was," he said



This was the sight Tuesday evening, after 92 mph winds came through the area around 7:00 p.m. This tree was uprooted at Kerry Kline's home,

at 200 N. Idaho St., just west of the Clark Elementary School. Much tree damage occurred by these straight line winds.

and noted that there was .85" of rain over the weekend, bringing the monthly total to near six inches in the northern part of Clark County.

At Garden City, .30" of rain fell last Tuesday evening and Garden City rain reporter Alan Luckhurst

said that the wind was the big story that night. "We are now wet. Before last week we were very dry. Both ends of town were plugged by trees for awhile. Doug Loomis spent the better part of three days hauling chopped up trees to the

landfill."

Ended NWS meteorologist Luecke, "This was a classic front coming together with a number of little cells popping up before they eventually merged to make one long line stretching from the Nebraska bor-

der all the way to the North Dakota border. The storms hit Clark County between 6:30 and 7:15 p.m. The rainfall that came with this storm will certainly help."

# Rusty Nail in Willow Lake turns five this summer!



The Rusty Nail has become a great place to gather with friends and have a good meal in the town of Willow Lake. Built with a rustic old west look where one can even 'sit a spell' on the front porch or picnic outside to the south of the building, the hometown restaurant is a result of residents coming together to make it happen. Shares in a corporation formed and local volunteers brought it to fruition.

Erica Bratland on the right has been the manager for two years. Her sister, Leslie Pommer assists during her summer break from college, in the kitchen and where ever needed.

Things are going good at the Rusty Nail Steakhouse and bar which will celebrate their five year anniversary this Fourth of July alumni weekend.

It was five years ago about this time when Hohm Construction was under a deadline to get the building up so returning alumni would have another place to go to and visit out from underneath the hot summer sun.

Tellinghuisen Construction was also under the gun that summer to finish the front sidewalks in time and both construction crews put in overtime to get the job done that summer.

The Rusty Nail building shot up from the ground in about six weeks time that summer. The south half of the building - the lounge side was up and running for the alumni celebration and a food wagon headed up by Marshall Edleman was nearby to assist that day.

The Willow Lake School celebrated their 100th year reunion that year on July 7, 2012. It's one of the

nation's longest running alumni celebrations and this year the WL alumni tallies its 105th.

The Rusty Nail Steakhouse and bar had its beginnings way before its official opening. It all started with a group of interested residents who wanted a good place to go out for a steak in the evenings in Willow Lake.

The group soon became a corporation and Community Partners Inc. was formed to bring a new steakhouse to Willow Lake.

Board members in 2012 were Jack Schmidt, president; Travis Bratland, vice president; Marty Buckhart, secretary; Rory Burke, treasurer and Barb Valentine.

They collected the targeted amount for the building and shares were sold. The momentum continued and construction began in the spring of 2012.

"A place like this is the heartbeat of the community," noted Schmidt, "and it will help keep our little community operating."

The exterior was built to have a

rustic old west look to match the newly built Home Town Hotel just down the street. Even the sidewalks resemble old board walks of years past.

The name "Rusty Nail" came from a contest in which Curwin Bratland won with his winning entry.

Erica Bratland has been the manager and cook at the successful business for the last two years. She started working there as a server

**Rusty Nail**  
(continued on page 8)

### WEATHER

Ryan Eggleston - Official  
Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
June 13 .....	79	59	2.78
June 14 .....	77	57	0
June 15 .....	80	56	0
June 16 .....	74	58	0
June 17 .....	68	50	.05
June 18 .....	70	50	0
June 19 .....	73	52	0
2017 precipitation to date	9.18		
2016 precipitation to date	7.89		

# Even though church is closed - Clark Center cemetery board remains active

The Clark Center Cemetery followed the beginnings of the Clark Center Lutheran Church around 1888. The Clark Center Evangelical Lutheran Church was organized on July 11, 1883 under the encouragement and assistance of Rev. A. O. Utheim and pioneers of the Garfield Township. Until the fall of 1898 regular services were held at the McLain School and Wallen School and sometimes in the homes of members.

Building started in 1898 and by November of that year, the first business meeting was held there. The church was soon finished and a dedication service was held in 1900. Heavy in Norwegian descent, many old records were in Norwegian and some lost in translation. The original organization covered a large territory however the Swedish settlers withdrew and formed their own congregation in 1891.

The church celebrated its 100th anniversary in June of 1983 having 58 families, 83 confirmed and 95 baptized members.

began a trust fund for the future maintenance of its well trimmed cemetery, to be able to keep it maintained with pride and dignity should the church close. This fund's interest has taken care of mowing duties and upkeep until recently. Now they need help and are always appreciative of additional funds.

The Clark Center Church and its cemetery to the east are located from Clark - three miles west to 421st Avenue, then five miles north to 168th Street and one-half mile going east to the church on 168th Street. The stately church with its bell tower steeple are on the north side of the road.

An additional bell tower complete with a large church bell from Rhinelander, Wis. was built as an addition to the cemetery in 2008 in memoriam to Miriam Fjelland Penn 1943-2007.

Predating the Clark Center Cemetery was the Clark Center Pioneer Cemetery which is a couple miles southeast of the church on 170th Street in the east end of Garfield Township. Known also as

the Wika or Lien Cemetery, this is one of the older cemeteries in Clark County. Family names in addition to those it was named for by some include Kloster, Burslem, Fjelland, Helland, Larson, Toresrud, Torgersrud, Aasen and Christensen. It is assumed also that many pioneers were buried there whose markers have since disintegrated and were forgotten as families moved on and settled elsewhere.

The same cemetery board looks after both cemeteries and maintenance for both are done by the Todd and Susan Fjelland family and daughters - Lauren and Syndie with mowing duties.

Current board members are: Dennis Larson, president; Marlin Fjelland, vice president; Terry Kloster, treasurer; Carmen Kloster, secretary and DuWayne Wallen. All were confirmed members of the Clark Center Church and have many family members in the cemetery.

**Clark Center**  
(continued on page 3)



Trimmed to perfection and filled with fragrant peony bushes is the Clark Center American Lutheran Church Cemetery.

A memorial bell tower complete with a church bell inside from Wisconsin was given and built in memoriam of Miriam (Fjelland) Penn after her death in 2007.

Cemetery board members, left to right are, Terry Kloster, Marlin Fjelland and Dennis Larson, all who have family members in the cemetery and who were all confirmed members of the Clark Center Church.