

★ TOP of the Week

WEATHER

Ryan Eggleston - Official Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
June 20	72	55	0
June 21	83	54	.49
June 22	73	52	.35
June 23	64	44	0
June 24	61	41	0
June 25	65	42	0
June 26	66	46	0
2017 precipitation to date	10.02		
2016 precipitation to date	7.92		

Fireworks and activities are set for July 4

Big activities are planned in the county for this July 4th holiday. Fireworks will take to the sky at dusk come Tuesday night for Clark's 4th of July celebration. The City of Clark and donations from other contributors will make the fireworks display event again a reality and it will take place at dusk at the Clark Golf Course. At Willow Lake, the annual 4th of July Parade begins at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, the 4th. Entries will line up at the football field. Activities and events will be going on all day beginning at 8:00 a.m. At dusk the Willow Lake Volunteer Fire Department will put on the community fireworks display at the football field.

Courier office to be closed July 4

With the 4th of July on a Tuesday this year, the Courier office needs your items and advertisements early this week in order to get out the July 5 edition. The office will be closed this Tuesday on the 4th to celebrate our nation's birthday. The paper will publish on Wednesday like usual. One will notice that the knee-high corn report story will be in next week's edition.

Garden City All School reunion is Saturday, July 8

The Garden City All-School Reunion will be held on Saturday, July 8 at the Garden City United Methodist Church with registration and social hour beginning at 5:30 p.m. The social hour will be held at the Prairie Ridge Lodge located just south of the church. Classes honored this year include the classes of 1947, 1957 and 1967. Anyone who attended Garden City School is welcome. Plan now to attend this event. Please contact either Delores Halajan in Watertown at 605-882-2678 or Janet Hurlbert in Clark at 605-532-3873.

Clark blood drive to be held Thursday

Clark's blood drive, sponsored by the Clark Lions and Lionesses will be Thursday, June 29 from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Clark United Methodist Church.

Clark County Rainfall	*Bradley
6/20 - 6/26	1.05"
*Crocker	
.60"	
	*Garden City
*Raymond	.80"
.90"	
	*Henry
*Clark	1.69"
.84"	
	*Vienna
*Carpenter	1.70"
NA	
	*Willow Lake
	.40"

Change orders accepted for air conditioning project

A special Clark School Board meeting was called for Monday morning primarily to accept the change order bid from Allied Climate Professionals/Jacobson Electric for the elementary/middle/high school air conditioning project. At the regular June school board meeting held two weeks ago, the board approved the original air conditioning sum of \$579,377. At this earlier board meeting, project engineer Travis Sichmiller expressed to the board that this sum could be lowered, without changing the scope of the air conditioning project. The contract was lowered by \$56,958 through change orders bringing the bid to \$522,419. After asking Sichmiller several questions concerning the change orders and hearing his replies over a conference call, the board accepted this change order bid. There is an insulation problem in the commons area so therefore insulation replacement on duct work was the one area where the contractors thought money could be saved, but after further research

School board
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Clark County Riders have another successful weekend in Clark

The last weekend in June traditionally is the Clark County Riders (CCR) motorcycle event. Oftentimes the weather has been very wet that weekend. This year it wasn't wet, but it was chilly. Low temperatures were in the 40's both Friday and Saturday nights.

Above, many CCR members get ready for a 'run', as they congregate at the Big C around noon on Saturday. Another successful CCR weekend is now in the books and members are already looking ahead to next year.

Kevin Neal runs the Boston Marathon



Kevin Neal of Bradley is shown in a soccer field in Hopkinton, Mass. as he waits with about 26,638 other runners to run in the 120th Boston Marathon. The 26.2 mile marathon was completed by Neal in 2016.

Not many in Clark County can say they've run in the Boston Marathon. It's one of the harder marathons in the United States with a lot of hills in the 26.2 miles and one must qualify to be able to participate. Kevin Neal of Bradley did just that in 2016 and came in 197th out of near 1,000 in his age division (males 60-64) as he finished the race. He was 62 years old at the time and didn't start his marathon running until age 53. It all began when he ran along with his son Chad in the Kampeska Run Around 5K race, which is a 3.1 mile race. He ended up beating his young son in the race and has continued running marathons since. "He's very competitive," said his wife of 31 years Nancy. The couple farm near Bradley and have two sons, Brandon and Chad. Nancy and Brandon and Kevin's sister Judy were all in the crowd near the finish as Kevin crossed the finish line. "We were close enough to see the memorial tree with the photos of the three victims on it from the

bombing in 2013," noted Nancy. The two bombs that went off near the finish line in 2013 killed three people and injured many during that tragedy. Since then security has been greatly enhanced at the Boston Marathon. "No one can wear a backpack, carry a bag or even wear a big coat to get through security," reported Neal. "The few things we did take with us were in a clear see-through bag. "I knew a marathon runner that ran in 2013, she had crossed the finish line about 20 minutes away from when the bombing occurred. She thought the sound was the bleachers falling over at first," recalled Neal. The race is always on Patriot's Day in April. "The whole city is pretty much shut down for the day," continued Neal. "Bomb sniffing dogs were all over and security was everywhere." The whole family went through security before they even boarded the bus to go to the race downtown. Nancy, Brandon and Judy stood

for six hours straight to get their good spot and watch the race. It started in Hopkinton and ended in downtown Boston on Boylston Street. Every runner has a micro-chip in their identifying bib with their number on it. Kevin's number was 21147. This individual clock chip automatically trips as they cross the finish line to record the runner's time. Kevin's family was also able to track Kevin's progress during the race with an app applied to their phones that they used from the marathon website. That way, they knew when he was coming to the finish line. The approximately 30,000 runners are divided up into four waves to start. The elite group begins the race after the wheelchair and handcycle participants. "They don't want the fast ones tangled up with the slower ones," stated Neal, "so the race goes smoother." Each wave starts 30 minutes apart. Neal was taken to a soccer field by bus at 6:30 a.m. and the race

Neal
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Graceland Church has preserved the cemetery

The Graceland Church of the United Brethren in Christ started its congregation in 1888 and the church was built in 1892. One of the first burials in the Graceland Cemetery was of a Pastor Graves who died in 1890 who was instrumental in the building of the church building although he never lived to see it completed. Atop a hill at the corner of 167th Street and County Highway 27, approximately six miles north of Henry is where the cemetery and church have been preserved and taken care of. Just last week Jeanette Hansen was laid to rest in the cemetery where she and her husband Harold were honored with a declaration of appreciation for their work in helping to preserve the old centennial church. It closed in 1947 and there was talk of tearing down, but the Hansens and Joe Murphy saw to it that the Henry area landmark would stay standing. Additional work by the cemetery board and local volunteers was done in restoration in 1999 and 2000. A new roof, ceiling and new siding was completed and the inside has family pictures and information of

its earlier years. A Graceland Cemetery board was first formed in 1975. Currently board members are: Bart Christensen, President; Carolyn Eck, secretary; Todd McGillivray, sextant/treasurer; Brett McGillivray, Darwin and Wanda Clyde, Jeanette Nelson and Adam and Laci Hartley. The cemetery is maintained by private donations and memorials along with volunteer efforts and additional help with funding is always appreciated. Memorial headstones of all shapes and sizes are in the cemetery with an astonishing array of artwork within the cement and stonework. There are also two steel headstones in the cemetery. Many unique headstones, some dating back as far as 1885 - Lovina Williams, are in the quaint cemetery atop a knoll next to the Graceland Church of the United Brethren in Christ. Located six miles north of Henry along 167th Street and County Highway 27 and 10 miles east of Garden City, the church has been preserved over the years by an active local volunteer group and the cemetery board who oversee the cemetery. Shown are board members, left to right, Jeanette Nelson, Carolyn Eck, Bart Christensen and Wanda Clyde behind the homecrafted concrete tree memorial for one-year-old Lulu Jones. The 126 year old headstone is in great condition despite its age (1891) and is one of many stones dating back to the 1800s in the cemetery.

Next to the church is a split field rock covered with concrete crypt made by the Barrette family. Rumor has it, they were from New Orleans where many burials were above ground, so they built the crypt in preparation. None of the family are buried in there. However, nine family members were laid to rest in the cemetery. In 1975, more trees were added on the south and west sides and in 1978 an ornamental white metal sign was added to the northeast corner. After the church closed in 1947, parishioners built the Wesleyan Church in Garden City, which also closed years ago, although the



Graceland cemetery
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