

TOP of the Week

WEATHER

Ryan Eggleston - Official Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
June 21	80	54	.03
June 22	79	55	0
June 23	74	55	0
June 24	85	63	0
June 25	82	54	0
June 26	84	56	0
June 27	74	52	0
2016 precipitation to date			7.92
2015 precipitation to date			10.30

Fireworks and activities are set for the weekend

Big activities are planned in the county for this July 4th weekend.

Fireworks will take to the sky at dusk come Monday night for Clark's 4th of July weekend 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 Monday, 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 Monday this year, the Courier office needs your items and advertisements early this week in order to get out the July 6 edition.

The office will be closed this Monday on the 4th to celebrate our nation's birthday.

Some items, such as local news items will have to come in on Tuesday, so please help the Courier out by getting in your 'stuff' early, if possible.

Clark School Board election results

On Tuesday, June 21, voters went to the polls to select a school board member to fill one three-year term. Incumbent Robert Steffen was re-elected to a three-year term on the Clark School Board. Steffen received a total of 181 votes to 94 votes for Jason Steen.

In Clark Steffen received 115 votes, Garden City - nine, Bradley - 28 and Raymond - 29.

In Clark Steen received 68 votes, Garden City - 11, Bradley - six and Raymond - nine.

City Council to meet on July 5

The Clark City Council regular monthly meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 5, at the regular 7:00 p.m. meeting time instead of Monday, July 4 due to the July 4th holiday.

Clark blood drive to be held Thursday

Clark's blood drive, sponsored by the Clark Lions and Clark Lionesses will be Thursday, June 30, from 1:00 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.

Joyce Helkenn is the coordinator of the drive, and one can make an appointment to donate blood by calling her at 532-3808 or 520-9544 or call United Blood Services at 1-800-917-4929 for more information.



Geronimo Energy wind project leaders meet with county commissioners

Geronimo Energy is the company behind the Crocker Wind Farm and Jay Hesse of Geronimo Energy attended the Clark County Board of Commissioners meeting on Tuesday, for updating purposes.

Hesse told the commissioners that the project is moving forward and that there is interest from energy buyers.

"We have done environmental analysis and we have acquired land for the turbines, but our next move is a big move and that is the purchasing of a 20-year power agreement," Hesse told the commissioners.

"We have had very active interest in this area (energy buyer) and I will keep in contact with you," the Geronimo project manager of the west region commented.

When Hesse finished his introductory remarks, commissioner Francis Hass asked if this project would be open to private local investments. After Hesse told of the pros and cons and risks involved, he stated that it would not be open for investors.

Hass then asked Hesse if it is too close to residential areas...could they be at least a mile away?

Hesse noted that Clark County had typical ordinances regarding the health and safety protection of

one and all. "The industry guideline is 1,200 to 1,400 feet and we prefer more," he said and commissioner Bob Bjerke interjected that a wind turbine shouldn't be right outside your picture window. Bjerke said he had received a phone call on just this subject, taking away a beautiful landscape.

Hesse said that his company is very aware and cognizant of these situations and talk turned to the potential 20-year contract that would come with this project. "We will be working with the community and we want harmony," said Hesse and he also was referring to landscape, etc. decisions of that kind.

About Crocker Wind Farm

Crocker Wind Farm will be located in Clark County, South Dakota and is estimated to include up to 200 megawatts (MWs) of wind turbines across roughly 30,000 acres. The wind farm will have approximately 100 turbines, access roads, electrical collection system, substation, met towers and a transmission line. All of these facilities will generate landowner payments, infrastructure improvements, increased local spending and charitable gifts.

It is anticipated that this project

Geronimo Energy
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Clark County Riders host successful event

The Clark County Riders motorcycle event was held last weekend at the Clark County Fairgrounds. This 34th annual run saw the community full of cycles on Friday, Saturday and Sunday morning. This photo was taken Saturday morning in the lot between Sportsman Bar and the Lookout.

Where are they now?

Jeff Bjerke retires from a life-long career in baseball

"It has always been my life-long dream to play one more season with the Clark Traders. It would mean so much to me to RETIRE a Clark baseball player, not a Minnesota player! I wonder if Freddie B. (Obermeier) could do something about that? They say baseball is a kids game, then at 47, I am finally becoming an adult!"

Jeff Bjerke has retired from baseball after a stellar career, starting in Clark and ending with the St. Patrick (Minn.) Irish. The word 'stellar' is rather an understatement, as Jeff has been a 'really good baseball player' for many years and he helped put and keep baseball in Clark, on the map during the 1980s.

Bjerke, a 1987 Clark High School graduate, is the fifth child of Jim and Sharon Bjerke and comes from a very athletic family. His brothers and sisters are: Joe, Jackie, Jerry, Julie and Jill.

Being a power hitter from both sides of the plate and a pitcher/catcher, Bjerke gives his siblings and parents all the credit in the world for the ball player he turned out to be.

He played for the Clark Teeners, coached by Gene Furness, in 1983

and 1984 and the Clark American Legion team in 1984-1987. Clark took third in the state in 1985 and in 1986 and 1987 won the South Dakota Class B American Legion titles.

Jeff played short stop, pitcher and catcher and his dad Jim Bjerke was the Legion coach for almost two decades.

When asked about his best memories of all the ball he played in Clark, the one time that stood out for him was after the Clark Legion won the state title in 1986. "I looked over in the dugout and my dad was crying. They were tears of joy. You have to understand that earlier that spring my dad had suffered a heart attack. It was pretty special for me."

Jeff continued, "Growing up I wanted to be like my oldest brother Joe. He had baseball 'smarts' and really knew the game, inside and out. Jerry was a carbon copy of Joe. Probably my least favorite memory was breaking my leg in the 1987 state tournament."

Jeff had a successful college baseball career, beginning with junior

Bjerke
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The corn is threatening to hide Kyle Stern and daughters Kennedy, three years old, and Gentry, three months old, in this field just southeast of Garden City. Crops got off to a roaring start this spring and rainfall now would keep them going strong.

Corn hit knee-high well before the Fourth of July

It seems that advances in agricultural practices have made knee-high-by-Fourth-of-July corn a typical event, if not an expected outcome. The corn surrounding Kyle Stern and daughters is over four feet high as of last week.

Throughout the state, all corn has emerged and it is reported that three-fourths of the crop is rated as good to excellent, as are the soybeans.

Predictions are for a 35 percent increase of harvested winter wheat over last year, which translates to expected yields of 55 bushels

per acre. Two-thirds of the winter wheat and spring wheat crops are said to be good to excellent.

Stock water is estimated at 87 percent adequate to surplus, and 68 percent of range and pasture lands are also in the good to excellent category across the state.

The National Weather Service reports that we may begin to see a La Niña influence on weather in the northern plains by the end of summer and persisting through the winter months. This could mean temperatures of slightly above normal, possibly with above-average

precipitation. According to the Farmers' Almanac, warm to hot conditions will prevail for the summer with average rainfall. There is a chance for the 'dog days' we are used to seeing in late July or early August to hold off and peak in late August and early September.

The bottom line is that the area needs rain. At this time the corn looks good, but with summer heat and no moisture, dry spots will show up quite quickly.

Kennedy and Gentry are the children of Kyle and Danae Stern.



Jeff Bjerke, right, stands on third base, in 2015, for the St. Patrick Irish, next to his cousin and long-time teammate John Johnson. Bjerke hung up his cleats after last season, after playing little league, Teeners, Legion, college, semi-pro and amateur baseball.

While playing for the Irish Bjerke was part of 11 state tournament teams. At Clark, he played in three American Legion State Tournaments, with Clark winning titles in 1986 and 1987, finishing third in 1985.