



Enjoy it while you can. Schools start soon.

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## Wegman Oil has been purchased by Clark Community Oil



Herb Wegman, right, looks on intently as Robert Wegman, center, and Troy Grensberg, Clark Community Oil manager, exchange keys.

Clark Community Oil Co. takes over ownership of Wegman Oil Co., Raymond, on August 17.

Robert Wegman and Wegman Oil bookkeeper Sharyl Graves will stay on with Clark Community Oil.

On the one hand it is the end of an era. On the other hand it is a plus for one of the biggest businesses in Clark County.

This Friday, August 15 is the closing date of the sale of the Wegman Oil Company of Raymond to the Clark Community Oil Company. So as of next Monday, this sale will be finalized and Clark Community Oil will have taken over this business.

"We're very excited," said Clark Community Oil general manager Troy Grensberg of this business purchase transaction. Grensberg noted that Robert Wegman, co-owner of Wegman Oil, will stay on with Community Oil as a delivery driver. Wegman Oil bookkeeper Sharyl Graves will remain in that capacity with Community Oil. Longtime Wegman Oil co-owner Herb Wegman is looking forward to a well-earned retirement, and maybe spending more time at their place on Lake Kampeska.

"The Wegmans have provided great service and our goal is to continue that great service, as a priority," continued Grensberg. "Community Oil is honored to be entrusted to take over the business."

### End of an Era

Wegman Oil has been a Raymond business staple for over 70 years. Herb joined his brother Harold in 1948. When Robert joined the business in 1978, Harold retired and the father and son duo decided to no longer sell farm equipment, which they had sold for over three decades. They began the International Harvester line in 1952.

Robert Wegman is a 1973 South Dakota School of Mines and Technology graduate with a degree in mechanical engineering. He was a project engineer with Shell Oil when he made the decision to come back and join the family business.

It was in 1978, when Robert joined his father Herb that they quit the Clark station and concentrated on sales in the oil business.

Herb's wife and Robert's mother Janice, has been a bookkeeper at Wegman Oil all these years. Sharyl Graves has also been a bookkeeper at the firm, since 1990.

Graves was at her desk during the interview and she commented that it's been a good business to work for and she's really enjoyed her work the last 24 years.

"The Wegmans have provided great service and our goal is to continue that great service, as a priority," continued Grensberg. "Community Oil is honored to be entrusted to take over the business."

Oil and propane customers have been the lifeblood of Wegman Oil. "We hated to think about it," said Herb about the prospect of selling the business. "Our ages and always being a little short of help," were factors Herb stated as why they were in favor of selling to Clark Community Oil.

"Plus, I'm looking forward to a little different pace," added Robert, who will, as aforementioned, stay on as a Clark Community Oil fuel and propane driver. "It's been a good life," said Robert. "People are helpful and accommodating, they're supportive. Customers and employees are more like friends and have been very important to our business."

### Going forward with fuel

Clark Community Oil opened its doors for business on Feb. 22, 1930. Many advancements and improvements have been made by Commu-

Community Oil throughout the years. In 1984 Cardrol was put in at the Clark station and the Cardrol will also be available at the Raymond store, but no employees will be there at the Raymond store, but Cardrol will be available at the Raymond pumps.

The propane plant at Clark Community Oil began in 1955 and as Grensberg and the two Wegmans were visiting about the future of this new transaction, a key element will be the available gas and propane storage.

Grensberg agreed that with Community Oil taking over the bulk plant at Raymond that it will be quite a storage advantage, with all the storage that the former Wegman Oil has available.

The talk then led to all the changes that the oil industry has seen over the years; locally, nation wide and internationally.

"When I started gas was 13¢ a gallon," said Herb, "and propane was 9¢ a gallon. When we built the (gas station) building in Raymond in 1966 I think gas was somewhere around 25¢ a gallon."

"I think the biggest change now is the money," said Robert. "A \$1,000,000 used to be a whole lot of money. The amount of money that you have to handle now in this business compared to what it used to be is an enormous change."

The talk then led to how the size of farms are bigger, the transport loads are larger and agriculture is now a very, very efficient industry with cutting edge technology and equipment to go with the 21st Century technology.

"I was looking through the old books at Community Oil, and in 1966 we borrowed \$30,000 for a fuel

Wegman Oil (continued on page 3)

## Can school really be starting within the next two weeks?

### ▲ Clark School Board handles routine business

New Clark superintendent Luanne Warren showed her educator side in her new administrative role telling the Clark School Board how excited she is and knows the entire staff is excited, with another school year right around the corner.

"Next week I call 'inservice week' as several inservices will involve staff and we will be getting set to open the school doors for students on Monday, August 25," Warren told the Clark School Board as Monday's August meeting began.

The Clark School Board will be meeting at 5:30 p.m. on the second Monday of each month during the 2014-15 school term.

Nothing really pressing was on the school board agenda, but the meeting did last almost two hours.

August is the month typically when major policies are changed in the respective handbooks. No major policy changes were evident.

The After School Program will be held Monday through Thursday and not on Friday this year. This discussion of dropping Friday to the After School Program was discussed at length.

In last week's *Courier* edition, on the Clark School page, it was stated that it will be Monday through Thursday this year and it is the consensus of the board to leave it that way. If sufficient numbers request or warrant Friday After School Program attendance, this could be rethought by the board of education.

Chief cook Lonna DesLauriers was on the agenda to talk about changes in the Clark School Food Service program. The highlights of her presentation included: 1) Clark School will be initiating Smart Snacks; 2) using less sodium is a nine-year (federal) plan; 3) everything will be (and has been for two years) whole grain; 4) Breakfast in a Bag is planned for this school year and will be monitored; 5) students have to take either fruit or a vegeta-

ble; and 6) DesLauriers is going to a two-month menu cycle.

Bob Bjerke attended the meeting to give the board an update on the track project. At last month's school board meeting the board approved the \$100,000 in the 2014-15 budget to be allocated to this project if Bjerke met the \$50,000 in donations. He has and bids are now being let for the rubberizing of the track, to be done this summer/fall.

To this point, Bjerke said he and his committee have raised \$67,293 in cash, pledges and in-kind work. Some discussion arose concerning the in-kind work and Bjerke assured the board that this element of the project is very important to work getting accomplished and no numbers are being inflated.

"With roughly \$65,000 still available after rubberizing the track, we will be looking at lighting, installation of the lights and irrigation," said Bjerke and he talked about timing of those three items. Much of the timing will depend upon when the track is rubberized this fall. Bjerke will be in communica-

tion with Warren, going forward. After Bjerke left, the board continued the track project discussion and several board members commented that the \$100,000 remaining, to be apportioned in next year's budget, could be a big issue.

### In other business:

▲ No executive session was necessary.

▲ Five open enrollment applications were accepted. Last month four open enrollment applications were accepted and superintendent Warren noted to the board that numbers could be up around 19 over this time a year ago.

▲ The board approved the hiring of a kindergarten aide. It looks as if, as of this week, that there will be 24 kindergarten students. The preschool number is at 34.

▲ A Cyclone co-op committee meeting could be held this fall to clarify several items, including football playoff sites.

▲ Air conditioning for service and repair will be talked about with Johnson Controls, by the superintendent.

▲ The school wellness committee met and plans are that the Field House could expand hours, on an individual basis, if insurance and a 'key plan' can get worked out.

Clark County Rainfall 8/5 - 8/11	
* Bradley .10"	* Garden City .40"
* Crocker .32"	* Henry 1.20"
* Raymond .20"	* Clark .25"
* Carpenter .20"	* Vienna 3.60"
	* Willow Lake .90"

WEATHER				
Ryan Eggleston - Official Weather Observer				
	HI	LO	PR	
Aug. 5.....	74	58	0	
Aug. 6.....	76	61	0	
Aug. 7.....	76	60	0	
Aug. 8.....	69	63	tr	
Aug. 9.....	74	62	.25	
Aug. 10.....	74	55	0	
Aug. 11.....	70	52	0	
2014 precipitation to date	11.39"			
2013 precipitation to date	16.26"			



Kids will play! These goats of Lydia Reidburn's looked right at home at the Clark County Fairgrounds last week during Achievement Days.

A total of 836 exhibits were entered by Clark County

4-Hers this year. Many standout livestock trophy winners are pictured this week. Because of space limitations, if they are not pictured this week, look for them in upcoming issues of the *Clark County Courier*.

## Weather continues to make Clark County's 2014 Achievement Days a big success

The weather was gorgeous. Cool mornings and evenings made for a very comfortable Clark County 4-H Achievement Days. So, if weather and results mean anything, Achievement Days 2014 were again very successful.

"I was very pleased with 4-H Achievement Days and how every-

thing turned out," said Clark/Spink County 4-H advisor Kim McGraw. "The weather cooperated nicely, bringing out a great crowd for the chicken barbecue. We have nice numbers and a very good percentage of State Fair qualifiers in Clark County."

The Clark County 4-H Achieve-

ment Days were held August 6 and 7. A total of 836 exhibits were entered by Clark County 4-Hers. There were 601 purple ribbons awarded, which are eligible to be entered in the 4-H division of the South Dakota State Fair. There

Achievement Days (continued on page 3)