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The Voice of Clark County

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**TOP
of the Week**

WEATHER
Ryan Eggleston - Official
Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
Aug. 20.....	88	64	0
Aug. 21.....	84	63	0
Aug. 22.....	78	60	0
Aug. 23.....	83	61	0
Aug. 24.....	89	72	0
Aug. 25.....	91	72	0
Aug. 26.....	88	70	0
2013 precipitation to date	16.26"		
2012 precipitation to date	14.27"		

School starts and summer really hits

It's really, really hot outside. If you think that is an understatement, try sleeping with the windows open this week. Air conditioning is a must as heat indexes are over 100° with dew points in the upper 60's, making for a very uncomfortable day and night.

Area schools are dismissing early all week. Heat advisories have been given for the area and the entire 'upper Plains' are suffering.

Livestock need special care and if row crops were in a catch-up mode, they probably caught up.

SD high school football begins Friday

Fall is approaching and with the change of seasons comes high school sports. Area football, volleyball and cross country teams have been practicing for about two weeks.

For the Clark-Willow Lake Cyclones the first football game is scheduled for this Friday, at Wauabay. The first volleyball game is Saturday, August 31 at Estelline in the Estelline Invitational tourney. Cross country will have their first meet next Thursday, September 5, at Redfield.

The Florence-Henry Falcons will start their football season on Friday, August 30 at Waverly against Waverly-South Shore. The Falcon volleyball team will play Great Plains Lutheran on Tuesday, September 3, in Henry.

SD State Fair begins tomorrow

The South Dakota State Fair, a South Dakota tradition, will begin on Thursday, August 29 and run through Labor Day, Monday, September 2.

The State Fair is held on the fairgrounds in Huron and many area 4-H families and others are on their way to the fair or soon will be.

Region 2B baseball honor squad named

Three Clark-Willow Lake players have been named to the 2013 South Dakota High School Baseball Region 2B honor squad for the spring season.

Lane Hovde, Rhett Florey and Andrew Wegner were named to the honor squad. All three also had a very successful summer for the Clark-Willow Lake American Legion baseball team.

Get copy early to the Courier

Labor Day, 2013 is on Monday, September 2. In the United States, Labor Day is always celebrated on the first Monday in September.

Most federal, state, county and many local businesses will be closed on Monday due to the Labor Day holiday.

There will be no Monday mail service, so the Courier staff asks that church news, local items, materials for stories and advertising be forwarded as to arrive at the Courier on Saturday or email at your regular time. The Courier will be open on Monday and employees will be on the job.

Housing is important to every city regardless of size

The city of Clark is 130 years old. As time has passed, many things have changed in the community and many things have stayed the same. So many variables make up a rural community of approximately 1,000 people and one of those topics that people like to talk and talk about are houses.

In a rural setting, the building and selling of homes isn't the same as it would be in a larger setting, but as Dakotafire begins a housing story feature in the near future, the Courier begins this topic visiting with Tom LaBrie, getting his take on the housing situation. If there was one individual familiar with Clark housing the past 30 years, it would be LaBrie. LaBrie, besides

his role as president of Dacotah Bank - Clark, he also is a long-time member of the Clark Industrial Development Board and also the Clark Development Board.

Housing questions with LaBrie's comments follow.

What is the housing situation in Clark? Are the needs in your community being served?

If we don't have houses available, we can't bring in people. I believe there should be one new spec home available in our community at all times for somebody new coming in to consider.

Housing goes hand in hand with economic development. We need to

Housing
(continued on page 3)

Get those campers ready, it's South Dakota State Fair time

▲ Exhibits are being judged today

Clark County 4-H'ers and Kim McGraw, Spink/Clark County 4-H youth advisor, are all rested up from Achievement Days and are excited about their upcoming trip to the State Fair.

"We've got a lot of nice quality exhibits going to the State Fair," said McGraw, and added, "from the livestock standpoint, we have good quality submitted. I would think we're going to have a high percentage of purple ribbons at the State Fair this year."

She said there are 36 head of beef going, 32 sheep, seven swine, 17 poultry, 11 rabbits and eight meat goats. McGraw said she was especially impressed with the numbers and quality of beef this year.

McGraw did say that the numbers of exhibits going this year are comparable to previous years. "Well, actually it is up from last

year. A lot of kids from Clark County are going to the fair this year. The exhibits are being judged today (Wednesday). With live and static exhibits, Clark County 4-H'ers have a total of 399 exhibits going to the fair."

The youth advisor and many 4-H'ers left for the fair on Sunday and McGraw will be out of the office for the entire week. She will be back in the Clark office on Tuesday, September 3.

Clark County, like every year, will have a booth and all of the area exhibits will be in the east annex of Clover Hall. McGraw said that there will be signs there to tell people where all of the Youth in Action events are taking place.

The Courier will report on how the 4-H'ers performed when results start coming back from Huron.



Makeover at Dickinson Park has begun

This photo was taken from the pitcher's mound on Wednesday of last week. Now, all that remains are three cement stantions and they will be gone shortly.

City crews continue to demolish the old to make way for the new as the Dickinson Park upgrade continues. The small, loose rock will be replaced with concrete for easier maneuverability, yet this fall.

Next spring a new stadium seating unit which

could hold close to 140 people will replace the old bleachers. A new press box with the possibility of an additional all-purpose room for officials underneath it is also in the works.

City employees Roger Collins and John Pickrel are shown above, working on improvements and renovations shared in cost and labor by the city of Clark and the Clark Rotary Club.

School numbers are stable

▲ Area schools are up 22 students

It's been a long time in coming, but area school districts have finally leveled off, not showing a distinct loss in school population numbers. All three area schools are showing very stable numbers.

Enrollment decline and school budget concerns seem to go hand in hand as state public school funding is predicated upon student numbers.

Public schools in South Dakota receive \$4,491 in state aid per student in grades K-12.

Enrollments in area schools have continued to decline this past decade and Clark, Willow Lake and Henry are all in the same boat - fewer students. For several consecutive years, the decline continues, but it has tapered off, showing some stability with the decline.

The majority of schools throughout rural areas have smaller kindergarten classes every fall than their graduating senior classes had the previous spring.

The 2013-14 school numbers show stability in all three area schools and all three schools have stabilized in population. Clark is down two students from a year ago; Willow Lake is up 12 and Henry is also up 12 from a year ago.

Enrollment for the three area schools is at 811 compared to 789 a year ago, and 739 two years ago.

Clark

A year ago Clark had 390 students PK-12 and this year will have 388 students, showing a decrease of two. Concerning state aid, (K-12, not preschool), Clark School is up two students.

There are 100 students in Clark High School, down six from last year.

Twenty-six seniors bid adieu in the spring and 27 kindergarten students have entered the system. The average number of students in each grade at Clark, K-12 is 28.

There are 92 students at colony schools compared to 85 a year ago. The largest class at Clark is the sophomore class with 30 students, followed by the kindergarten and junior classes with 27 each. Clark School Superintendent Brian Heupel said there are always some move outs and some move ins over the summer months and we're fortunate that we had as many move-ins as move-outs.

"School is off to a nice start at Clark," said superintendent Brian Heupel. He shared that the teach-

ers are excited to get school going, even with the extreme heat.

"The teachers are on-board with the Common Core philosophy and principles," said Heupel, and he reported that the Clark Middle School (involving the entire school) is part of a pilot program through USD on Teacher Effectiveness Through Evaluation. "It's a sustainable, documentable and measurable way to evaluate educators with two strands to the evaluation process; the Danielson Framework and the Smart Goal approach," said Heupel.

"I'm very glad we're seeing the end of this declining enrollment cycle," ended the Clark superintendent.

Clark

	13	12	11	10
Pre-school	14	13	12	11
Kindergarten	22	26	21	27
Grade 1	27	21	23	16
Grade 2	20	23	16	18
Grade 3	22	19	17	19
Grade 4	17	22	18	15
Grade 5	21	17	13	21
Grade 6	19	15	20	16
Grade 7	14	18	15	19
Grade 8	18	16	21	31
Grade 9	16	22	31	25
Grade 10	21	30	24	25
Grade 11	30	29	22	24
Grade 12	27	21	26	30
Hillcrest	22	26	34	28
Fordham	27	28	64	59
Silver Lake	20	17	16	13
TOTAL	388	390	381	386

Willow Lake

At Willow Lake, school started with 238 students, up 12 from last year. There are 17 kindergarten students compared to 19 seniors who graduated last spring.

First year Willow Lake superintendent Scott Klautdt said that school is off to a nice start at Willow Lake and at the three colony schools: Mayfield, Collins and Shamrock. To increase by a dozen students is good for several reasons, noted Klautdt, especially concerning student state aid. Both the freshman and sophomore classes have 19 students each.

Klautdt is the 'point-man' athletic director for Clark-Willow Lake, in charge of scheduling and officials. He stated that he thought this was an important role and he is looking forward to this position along with his other duties leading the Willow Lake School.

Homecoming is October 4 at Willow Lake.

Henry

	13	12	11	10
Pre-school	14	13	12	11
Kindergarten	17	10	9	12
Grade 1	12	10	13	14
Grade 2	11	14	14	9
Grade 3	13	15	9	6
Grade 4	13	10	7	13
Grade 5	11	6	13	10
Grade 6	7	16	10	15
Grade 7	16	9	17	16
Grade 8	10	19	14	10
Grade 9	19	18	9	10
Grade 10	19	10	8	17
Grade 11	10	13	16	16
Grade 12	11	19	14	20
Shamrock	12	11	6	7
Mayfield	21	22	14	15
Collins	26	11	11	10
TOTAL	238	226	194	207

Henry

Henry has 185 students for the 2013-14 school term, up 12 students from last year.

The biggest class will be the first grade class with 18 students.

The class size averages 14 students and the numbers are quite stable with the largest class at 18 and the smallest at nine.

Superintendent Steve Zirbel noted that Homecoming is September 13, just over two weeks away. "We started something new last year having coronation on Monday, September 9 (this year) at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon. Having it during the school day seemed to work for us, so we're doing it again this year," said Zirbel.

"On a positive note, we have 58 football players in the Falcon co-op, grades 7-12," said Zirbel. "Thirty-two on the high school level, 26 in the seventh and eighth grades." He also noted that there are 74 members in band at Henry, grade 4-12.

Henry

	13	12	11	10
Pre-school	14	13	12	11
Kindergarten	15	9	12	17
Grade 1	13	17	9	12
Grade 2	18	9	13	9
Grade 3	9	12	10	13
Grade 4	14	13	13	9
Grade 5	14	14	5	11
Grade 6	14	7	13	11
Grade 7	9	13	13	9
Grade 8	13	14	9	10
Grade 9	16	12	9	15
Grade 10	11	13	17	16
Grade 11	10	13	13	17
Grade 12	16	14	15	10
TOTAL	185	173	164	173



Chillin' in the summer heat

It will be a hard sell to tell someone that summer ends with Labor Day, in Clark County. Labor Day is Monday and the thermometer is to be in the 90's for the majority of the time, through the Labor Day weekend and into next week. Summer will continue, even if fall events have begun.

Taking advantage of the warm mornings are these nine-month to two-year-olds from Little Explorers Day Care, out for a morning stroll in the six-seater. Driven by Ashley Petersen, youngsters include: back, Jaxson Felderman, middle row, left to right, Ethan Spieker, Reese Knutson and front left to right, Teddy Dandurand and Jacob Hofer.