

Clark American Legion celebrates Constitution Day, September 17



"You know your leaders! I'm Impressed," stated 'Thomas Jefferson' of the Clark School fifth and sixth graders last Tuesday in honor of Constitution/Citizenship Day. Thomas Jefferson, alias Retired Lt. Colonel Darin Lewis of the Clark American Legion Cagley-Smith Post #60 very much so looked the part of the third president of the United States in his white powdered wig and period costume. Lewis and other dignitaries spoke on the details of the making of the Charters of Freedom and our flag and other historic details on how the United States came to be the

land of the free and the home of the brave. Behind "Jefferson" are the lighted Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights under glass. It is the 100th anniversary of the National American Legion this year with the original National charter signed on September 4, 1919. The Clark American Legion's temporary charter was issued on September 9, 1919 and named the Cagley Post #60 after George Lewis Cagley, a WW I veteran from the Raymond area- the first deceased veteran of WWI in Clark County.

Last Tuesday under sunny skies, the Clark American Legion Cagley-Smith Post #60 members orchestrated a unique program in honor of Constitution/Citizenship Day at Flat Iron Park. It was held appropriately in front of the park's Charters of Freedom settings at 1:00 in the afternoon. The Clark fifth and sixth graders were in attendance on the bleachers that were brought in along with several other community members.

Legion member Dave Adam was the master of ceremonies who introduced Betsy Ross, Ben Franklin, Abigail Ludington and Thomas Jefferson. These historical figures were portrayed by Bernice Halling, Gary Hoidal, Dianna Overby and Darin Lewis respectively. South Dakota Senator Brock Greenfield and *Clark County Courier* editor Bill Krikac also spoke at the event keying on our laws and our freedom of speech.

Betsy Ross

Betsy Ross made flags, by hand for 50 years under government contract starting with the original "Old Glory" stars and stripes representing the 13 colonies at the time.

Betsy, who was portrayed by retired teacher Mrs. Bernice Halling taught needle work and worked in an upholstery shop. Her husband John Ross was killed in the Revolutionary War. She was asked by her late husband's uncle if she could hand stitch a flag in 1776 with six pointed stars. She replied that she could make a five pointed star quicker and sew them on faster too, and they agreed to her request.

The Pennsylvania State Navy

Board paid for the first flag. On a side note, the nickname "Old Glory" came from a sea captain who was trying to raise the flag on a ship during a tough wind. "Oh Glory" he stated in frustration and the name "Old Glory" stuck it was told.

Halling ended by saying there is a Betsy Ross museum in Philadelphia, Penn.

Benjamin Franklin

"The thirteen colonies thought King George III was the biggest bully in the world," explained Gary Hoidal who portrayed Mr. Franklin. "He thought everything belonged to him."

Taxation without representation in 1765 and 1766 led to angry protests of the colonists. The Stamp Act led to the first act of colonies standing up to the British government. The Boston Tea Party, throwing British tea overboard was another defiant act, among others which led to the early Americans declaring independence from Great Britain. When the Declaration of Independence was drafted and signed, the first signature was John Hancock's who wrote it nice and big and legible and claimed "He can read this now!" When the Declaration of Independence was signed on July 4, 1776, Benjamin Franklin was heard to say "We must all hang together or assuredly, we will all hang separately," when members of the second continental congress signed the document.

Abigail & Sybil Ludington

Abigail Ludington was represent-

Constitution Day
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Crops still playing 'catch-up'

According to South Dakota State University State Climatologist Laura Edwards, many, or most locations in South Dakota have already received as much precipitation this year as they do in an entire average year.

In Clark, official precipitation to date is 32.19". Last year at this time it was at 14.42" and in 2017 it was 20.92" at the end of September and in 2016 it was 17.04". Many areas in Clark County have received closer to 35-36" of moisture on the year, almost double for the average this time of year.

Edwards continued, "The climate outlook for August through October favors wetter than average conditions across South Dakota. The Northern Plains states are more likely to have wetter than average conditions than anywhere else in the lower 48 states."

"Wet climate conditions in the next three months would be consistent with out state's long-term trend, which has been an increase in fall precipitation over the last several decades. For soybean and

corn growers, wet conditions in the late summer and fall have become more of the norm than the exception in recent years, including in 2018.

"The temperature outlook is less certain. October does not appear to lean strongly either cooler or warmer than average."

The 10-day forecast at this point doesn't show freezing conditions, but that could change as we get into October.

This week has been a good week for row crop growth, but late September means shorter, generally cooler days as well as dew that stays longer in the morning and arrives earlier in the evening, so a later frost is that much more important to boost the development of still-maturing crops.

South Dakota Crop Report

For the week ending September 22, 2019, there were 4.9 days suitable for fieldwork, according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Topsoil moisture supplies rated 0 percent very short, 1 short, 63 adequate, and 36 sur-

plus. Subsoil moisture supplies rated 0 percent very short, 2 short, 61 adequate, and 37 surplus.

Field Crops Report: Corn condition rated 2 percent very poor, 5 poor, 27 fair, 51 good, and 15 excellent. Corn dough was 97 percent, near 100 for both last year and the five-year average. Dented was 71 percent, well behind 98 last year and 92 average. Mature was 12 percent, well behind 64 last year and

Crops

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WEATHER			
Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer			
	HI	LO	PR
Sept. 17.....	84	67	.74
Sept. 18.....	86	63	.14
Sept. 19.....	76	58	0
Sept. 20.....	81	58	0
Sept. 21.....	84	64	.35
Sept. 22.....	77	52	0
Sept. 23.....	68	52	0
2019 precipitation to date 32.19			
2018 precipitation to date 14.42			



The 2019 Clark High School Homecoming royalty candidates have been chosen by the senior class. The seniors in the front row are left to right are Madilyn Steen, Saylor Hallstrom, Olivia Sass and Amanda Reff. In the back are Matthew Streff, Dakota Lilly, Zachary Kuno and Charlie Spieker. Coronation for the Queen and Marshal will be held on Monday, September 30, at 7:00 p.m. in the Clark High School Gym.

Many crime victims in S.D. are not being paid restitution they are owed

Nick Lowrey

South Dakota News Watch

In South Dakota, people convicted of crimes owe their victims tens of millions of dollars in court-ordered restitution, but most of that debt is going unpaid and there is little remedy available for those harmed to get their money.

In theory, ordering criminals to pay for damages they caused gives courts a way to provide victims some measure of financial compensation and closure. The idea is so highly valued that state courts are required by law and a recent state constitutional amendment to order defendants to pay restitution anytime there is measurable financial harm done to a victim.

In practice, state data show, criminal restitution rarely benefits the people who need the most help after being victimized. The vast majority of criminal restitution never gets paid. Over the past three fiscal years, state courts have ordered

Many victims not receiving court-ordered restitution

Here is a look at how much court-ordered restitution money was ordered to be paid by people convicted of crimes to their victims in each of the past three fiscal years and how much of the money had been paid as of August 2019.

Fiscal year	Restitution	Paid so far	% paid
2017	\$4.6 million	\$648,706	14.1%
2018	\$3.1 million	\$755,313	24.5%
2019	\$2.7 million	\$689,484	25.1%
Total	\$10.4 million	\$2.1 million	20.2%

Source: South Dakota Unified Judicial System

criminals to pay more than \$10.4 million to their victims. Of that, courts have collected only about \$2.1 million for victims.

Over that same time period, the state Unified Judicial System has sent more than \$64 million in overdue court-ordered debt to the newly

created South Dakota Debt Obligation Recovery Center, which can enact sanctions to prompt people to pay up.

Most of the court debt is for restitution owed to crime victims, said

Crime victims
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2019 CHS Homecoming theme is 'Candy'

For those with a sweet tooth, they will enjoy the 89th annual Clark Homecoming theme of "Candy" which was chosen for the 2019 Homecoming activities that start on Monday, September 30 and continue until Friday, October 4.

The week starts out with Coronation of the Queen and Marshal on Monday, September 30, at 7:00 p.m. (Note the time change from previous years). It will be held at the Clark High School Gym.

During Homecoming week or 'Spirit Week', each day has a different dress up protocol. On Monday, it is 'Frat boy/ VSCO girl Day'. On Tuesday, students will be wearing costumes for 'Costume Day'. The fun continues on Wednesday with 'Hobo Day' and on Thursday, students will pair up for 'Twin Day'. Friday is the traditional 'Cyclone Day' showing the school spirit with the school colors, black, green and silver.

The Homecoming parade starts at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, October 4. The

Cyclone football game will start at 7:00 p.m. that evening at the Clark High School Sports Complex west of the high school against the Waverly-South Shore Coyotes.

The Queen candidates are:

Olivia Sass is the daughter of Chris and Amy Sass. She is active in volleyball, basketball, golf, band, 4-H, FCCLA, FFA, S.A.D.D., All-School play, is a Special Olympics Unified partner, is student council president and is a member of the Greater Clark Area Community Foundation.

Amanda Reff is the daughter of Julie Reff and the late David Reff. Her activities are football cheerleader, FFA, S.A.D.D., All-School play, Special Olympics Unified partner, is student council president and is a member of the Greater Clark Area Community Foundation.

Madilyn Steen is the daughter of Jason and Kylie Steen. She is the class president, on the student council, is the president of FCCLA, is active in the All-School play, golf, S.A.D.D. and hockey.

Saylor Hallstrom is the daughter of Jenny Hallstrom and Corey Hallstrom. She is active in FFA, FCCLA, Student Council, S.A.D.D., is a football cheerleader and is in band, track, a partner in Special Olympics Unified bowling and is on the National Honor Society.

The Marshal candidates are: **Zachary Kuno** is the son of Amy Woodland and Nathan Kuno. His activities include FCCLA and cross country.

Matthew Streff is the son of Paul and Louann Streff. He is active in football, basketball, baseball, One Act play and is on the National Honor Society.

Charlie Spieker is the son of Craig Spieker and April Bebens-ee. His activities are cross country, wrestling and band.

Dakota Lilly is the son of Steve and Linda Lilly. He is active in football, track, wrestling, baseball and band.