



Story Hour has begun at Clark Library

"A Universe of Stories" is the theme of the 2019 Summer Reading Program at the Clark Emil M. Larson Library. The eight-week program began last Wednesday.

Oliver Weber, son of Dr. Landon and Justine We-

ber, Clark, might be a little young for the program, but is waiting patiently while his older sister partakes of the stories, activities, snacks and fun that goes along with "A Universe of Stories".

NorthWestern Energy District superintendent Warren Brandlee has retired

After 46 years with NorthWestern Energy Warren Brandlee has retired. For the last 21 years he has been the District Superintendent of the Clark area and then he assumed the District Superintendent of both the Watertown and Willow Lake Districts.

Brandlee graduated from Bristol High School in 1971, graduated from Mitchell Technical Institute with a degree in Electrical Construction and Maintenance in 1973 and on June 4 of that year started as a Northwestern Public Service lineman, in Webster.

Clark was the next destination for him as a NWPS lineman and he was here for 11 years before he was presented with the opportunity of being the Watertown District superintendent, a post he held for 12 years.

In 1998 Warren and Jan Brandlee moved back to Clark for the aforementioned District superintendent position with Jan finishing up her college degree she started years ago and the couple building their home on Pebble Beach in Clark.

"I've had fun," said Brandlee of the 46 years. "But now it's time to look out at storms, not look in." His last working day was May 31 and he will officially be retired July 1.

As far as which weather events stood out over the 46 years, he was quick to answer, "the Thanksgiving weekend storm of '05. That was a big one! It took us over three days to get the (Clark) plant on. Over



Warren Brandlee

300 poles were down in the Clark area."

Brandlee has always been a very community-minded citizen. He currently sits on the ITC Board of Directors, which he has held for 20 years and is a past president. He served for over a decade on the Clark Industrial Development Corporation board and is a board of director on the newly created Choose Clark County Economic Development Board. He also is a Clark Rotarian. While in Watertown he was the Past Master (1991) of the Concord Masonic Lodge #13. He remains a Mason with that Lodge.

Brandlee (continued on page 10)

Bethlehem Church to celebrate 135 years, July 7

The 135th Anniversary celebration at Bethlehem Lutheran Church of Raymond is planned for Sunday, July 7, 2019. The anniversary service is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. with a Tri-Parish service including Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church of Clark and Willow Lake Evangelical Lutheran Church. Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church is a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS).

Statehood was still a half decade away for the state of South Dakota when a group of German immigrants gathered together under the leadership of Pastor Franz Johl to organize Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church in 1884. Early services were held in the home of Reinhard Nommensen, and then in a local school house, and later still, in the hall above the Nommensen Hardware Store. In 1887 Pastor E. Luebbert served the congregation whenever he could make it to Raymond in his busy rounds as a circuit-riding pastor.

Pastor George Lahme conducted services from 1889-1890, then in September of 1890 Pastor G. E. Fritzke became the first part-time pastor. He was succeeded by Pastor E. Fritz (1895-1899), J. R. Baumann (1899-1900), and G. Adescheck (1900-1903).

The early 1900's were trying times, as many struggled with crop failures due to severe drought. Many pioneers packed up their wagons and headed back east. Pastor M. Michaels served those who remained and the congregation decided to build a house of worship and extend a Call to a pastor

2019 excessive rainfall has producers scrambling

"We played in the mud a little more this year," joked Tom Wookley - a Clark County producer who among many has had a challenging planting season this spring.

High waters and saturated soil across many townships this spring in Clark County have delayed planting.

"It's the easiest spring I've ever had - April and May were pretty easy this year," continued Wookley who like many others, had much later planting dates going into June this year. "We're going to need a perfect fall now for the crop to come through."

John Arthur and his son James farm east of Clark. "It's the wettest I've ever seen it this spring," stated James Arthur. "We're about three weeks behind on everything. Not all of it got planted and there's a lot that's just not going to get planted - it's too wet."

John Arthur stated that in his 40+ years of farming, he's never seen it quite this wet. "A moisture trend hung in there all winter long and never let up. As hard as it's been, we're fortunate. The northeast is probably the best for getting anything done this spring - it's worse south and west of us."

"If we were back raising potatoes, this year would have been a disaster. The seed would be sprouting in the bins, not being able to be put in the ground. It would have been nearly impossible to raise potatoes this year."

"I've got some spring wheat that could use some rain now, it's starting to head out. Rain would also help to soften the ground now - that would be good. Mud tends to turn into hard ground making a crust on the top, rains now would help soften that," ended Arthur.

One may note, interviewing was done previous to the weekend rainfall.

"We need heat now. A lot of sunshine and rains. Like Trump says, 'We'll see what happens,'" ended Arthur.

Prevent plant acres deadline moved

Last Thursday, June 20 it was announced by the United States Department of Agriculture that the harvest date for 'prevent plant' acres has been moved from November first to September first.



These black Angus cattle will maybe be getting a little more variety in their diet come this fall. With the flooding and excessive rainfall this spring, the USDA has moved the 2019 final haying and grazing date from November first to September first for prevent plant acres.

This spring a lot of acres were prevented from planting with conditions being too wet. Planting a forage crop such as millet, sorghum or oats on these acres will be more doable with a September first early harvest date versus November first. The USDA's Risk Management Agency adjusted the haying and grazing dates for 2019 only 'to help farmers with the tough decisions they are facing this year'.

Farmers who planted cover crops on prevented planting acres will be permitted to hay, graze or chop those fields earlier than November this year. USDA's Risk Management Agency adjusted the 2019 final haying and grazing date from November to September to help the farmers impacted by flooding and excess rainfall this spring. "We made this one-year adjustment to help farmers with the tough decisions they are facing this year," stated Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation Bill Northey. "RMA has also determined that silage, haylage and baleage should be treated in the same manner as haying and grazing for this year. Producers can hay, graze or cut cover crops on or after September first and still maintain eligibility for their full 2019 prevented planting indemnity."

The corn late plant date in Clark County was May 25 and for soybeans it was June 10. "This earlier harvest date will help a lot," noted agronomist Shawn Mohr of Clark. "Our state sold out of millet seed last week - it's hard to find now. There was a big run on millet seed the day of the announcement. Millet, sorghum, forage barley, oats,

field peas and sudan grass are some of the options for cover crops that local producers use.

The agronomy center in Clark was in the heart of their pre-emergence spraying on soybeans last Mother's Day in 2018. This year there was very little in the ground and not much going on at the center the second weekend in May. "It's been a strange year," stated Mohr. "Unlike any that I can remember. Everything's been really pushed back."

"Crusting issues have been a problem for some this year," he con-

Excessive rainfall (continued on page 3)

WEATHER

Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
June 18	70	52	.19
June 19	74	58	0
June 20	73	59	.01
June 21	72	57	.15
June 22	77	59	1.13
June 23	66	54	.23
June 24	72	55	.07
2019 precipitation to date	14.28		
2018 precipitation to date	6.60		



Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church, of Raymond

partnership that continues to this day. Rev. E. C. Hallstein served from 1952-1953, followed by Rev. M. Schroeder from 1954-1959, and Rev. Robert J. Zink from 1959-

1963. The congregation celebrated its 75th anniversary in 1959. After experiencing a year-long vacancy,

Bethlehem Lutheran (continued on page 10)