

## Clark School talks new garage, air conditioning pay-off, staffing, conferences and computers

The October meeting of the Clark School Board, held Tuesday, October 15, lasted a little over an hour. The main discussion items dealt with the elementary garage; staffing personnel; air conditioning bond pay off; parent-teacher conferences and school staff monitoring computers.

### Elementary garage

As the north parking lot at the Clark Elementary has a three foot slant, with the building of a three-stall garage in that location, three extra feet, for an apron, is needed, that wasn't in the original bid. This will be completed in the near future, with the cement apron, so there is no drop off.

Superintendent Luanne Warren then spoke about a bus driver shortage in the state and area. There is a new law on the books, she said, that drivers need a Commercial Driver's License (CDL), but special training is required. Staff who drive 15-passenger vehicles also need bus training.

### Air conditioning payment

The school board approved the \$360,219.38 air conditioning capital outlay bond, with a saving of ap-

proximately \$15,000, to be paid off. This decision came after a short discussion. Business manager Mary Nelson noted that there is \$570,964 in the capital outlay fund and board president Robert Steffen, echoed by board member Todd Fjelland felt strongly that at least a \$200,000 cushion remain in this fund.

Nelson, who had the auditor in her office much of last week, reported that the auditor thought the paying off of this bond 'would be a wise decision'.

Steffen was re-appointed as the Clark School District Associated School Boards of South Dakota delegate for the upcoming legislative session.

### Parent/teacher conferences

The first academic school quarter ended last Friday. Parent/teacher conferences are set for Thursday, Oct. 24. The exception to this is in the middle school, as because of the amount of middle school students, fifth and sixth grade conferences will be on Monday, Oct. 21 from 3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

### School staffing

The board accepted resignations

from elementary special ed aide Wanda Torres and aide Elizabeth Colon (Morales). The board then hired Sam Watson (Larsen) as a preschool special ed aide.

These actions brought about Spanish speaking communication situation discussion from superintendent/principal Warren. Warren explained that when students, with English as their second language, come into the district, it brings about special challenges.

### Clark School (continued on page 3)

| WEATHER                                 |       |    |     |
|---|-------|----|-----|
| Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer |       |    |     |
|   | HI    | LO | PR  |
| Oct. 14.....                            | 36    | 26 | 0   |
| Oct. 15.....                            | 51    | 26 | 0   |
| Oct. 16.....                            | 39    | 34 | 0   |
| Oct. 17.....                            | 45    | 32 | 0   |
| Oct. 18.....                            | 62    | 32 | 0   |
| Oct. 19.....                            | 63    | 32 | 0   |
| Oct. 20.....                            | 60    | 37 | 0   |
| Oct. 21.....                            | 54    | 43 | .16 |
| Oct. 22.....                            | 45    | 32 | .14 |
| 2019 precipitation to date              | 34.78 |    |     |
| 2018 precipitation to date              | 16.96 |    |     |



## Hunting season is upon us

With pheasant opener last weekend, the competition was on for the 2019 Rooster Rush decorating in Clark for area businesses and residences. At Dacotah Bank, these three employees came together with help from family in gathering props for their front display.

Blue stem grass, pumpkins and gourds rest along straw bales with a unique flying ringneck pheasant shadow taking flight in the background.

From left to right, Heather Heikenn, Cathy Bjerke and Mary McGillivray are shown with their creative display.

### Marilyn Steiger's advice to future generations:

## "Teach your children respect for others and their property"



Marilyn Ann Steiger sits by a family heirloom in her home - a 1906 pump organ that her 'second mom' Angie Seefeldt inherited from her mother Kate Becking. Kate received it for a wedding present along with two acres of land. Marilyn's mother Berniece died at the age of 45 due to lockjaw when Marilyn was 17 years old. The oldest in the family - Marilyn enjoyed being outdoors more so than indoors and was her father Merrill's tractor driver on the farm. Marilyn and her husband of 59 years Walt Steiger currently live on the former Merrill Seefeldt farm south and west of Clark.

Some of Marilyn Steiger's earliest memories are of her walking behind her father - in his footsteps as he went around and checked his traps in the winter time. "With the water around and the deep snow, I learned I was the safest just walking in his footsteps and I wouldn't get in trouble. He'd trap muskrat, mink and later raccoon.

"I remember when we came across our first raccoon. There hadn't been any in our area before so it was a big deal. We even took it to show the relatives at Christmas," recalled Steiger.

Marilyn Steiger is the daughter of Merrill and Berniece Seefeldt, born on October 7, 1939 at Mabel Stacey's in Clark. She has one younger sister Donna who is nine years younger than Marilyn.

She grew up on the farm five miles south and five miles west of Clark. Marilyn describes her father Merrill as a jack of all trades like his father August, 'Gus'. Merrill was a farmer who raised cattle and horses and was very fond of ponies, as well.

Her mother Berniece was a hard working farm wife who was always busy in the house as well as raising chickens and a few ducks. Marilyn recalls 'butchering time' for the chickens being assembly line fashion. One would chop off the heads or wring the necks, then into the boiling water they'd go. Then it was picking off all of the feathers and cleaning out the insides, saving the gizzards, hearts and livers. Butchering chickens was a big occasion at the Seefeldt farm.

### Grandparents

Her grandparents on her father's side were August 'Gus' and Jessie Seefeldt who lived a little over three miles away from them. The families visited back and forth quite often. "Gus was a good mechanic and Jessie

Steiger

(continued on page 10)



Clark County GF&P Conservation Officer Zach Thomsen visits with GF&P specialist Jacquie Ermer, Webster, prior to the Chronic Wasting Disease Open House, Monday, at the Ulliyot Building. GF&P officials are increasing surveillance in Clark County this deer season as a captive elk was found with CWD.

## Increased surveillance by GF&P this deer season in Clark County

A Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Open House was held Monday, at the Ulliyot Building, in Clark. Hosted by the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks staff, Jacquie Ermer, GF&P of Webster, led the presentation.

Game, Fish and Parks is asking landowners and deer hunters for their help this season, in Clark County.

Ermer explained that CWD was

found in a local captive elk. Therefore, increased surveillance in Clark County is necessary in order to determine if CWD is present in wild deer in the county. To date, that is not the case. No free-range deer, with CWD have been found, or located, in east river South Dakota, but because of all the west river, especially Black Hills area, where

CWD

(continued on page 3)

## 'Quiet' opener to the 2019 pheasant season

"The weather actually was pretty decent for the opening weekend of the (non-resident) pheasant season," said Clark County Game, Fish and Parks Conservation Officer Zach Thomsen.

Weather was nicer on Saturday, than Sunday, but Sunday was a better day for dogs as it was a little cooler and not so dry.

"With the crops in the field, dogs do provide a 'better finding rate'," Thomsen continued and said that the bottom line was - "it was a fairly quiet opening weekend in Clark County."

Thomsen thought that hunters saw a decent number of pheasants, but because of all of the crops still in the field and the saturated, wet ground, it made it difficult to hunt pheasants.

"Probably a bird per hunter," Thomsen speculated as to the suc-

cess rate. "There probably was more hunting pressure in the south half of the county, plus there was heavy public land concentration in the northeast corner of the county," said the game warden. "This is only my second year of pheasant season in the county, but I think it's safe to say that hunting pressure is probably a little down from last year."

The biggest enforcement issues Thomsen faced on opening weekend dealt with road hunting violations and alcohol with firearms.

"I can only stress the safety, ethics and respect while road hunting," said Thomsen and he reported accident free and injury free hunting in the county.

"As the crops come out, the late season pheasant hunting will be good," he closed. The pheasant season ends January 5, 2020.



Harvest has come to a halt in most of Clark County. This soybean field, about 13 miles south of Clark still has some remnants of snow that fell on October 11 and 12 in the ditch nearby. "Saturation is higher than usual this year," stated Agtegra Cooperative manager Chad Kruger of

Willow Lake. Farmers emptying grain bins to make way for the incoming crops has been the only activity coming into the elevator most recently. Producers are waiting for the crops as well as the soil to dry out some more before the harvests continue.

## 2019 will be remembered for a late, challenging harvest

At the Agtegra Elevator in Willow Lake, last Friday, it was pretty quiet compared to this time last year.

Elevator manager Chad Kruger stated that in a normal year, harvests are usually wrapped up by Thanksgiving, but the new norm is getting to be that one hopes to be done by December.

"If the ground is frozen, they'll be able to go but fighting the mud is the toughest part," he stated of this

year's conditions in the fields.

Five inches (approximately) of snow fell a week ago Thursday through Saturday throughout Clark County and added even more moisture onto saturated fields in the area.

"We usually have a wet spring and a dry fall or a dry spring and a wet fall, but this year was unusual with a wet spring, a wet summer and a wet fall," added Kruger. "On the plus side, South Dakota is usu-

ally windy so that helps. Now if we can get more dry sunny weather that will make a difference.

"The beans can recover and dry down pretty fast, but the biggest hurdle is the mud - it's just too muddy out there. Either the ground is wet and the beans are dry or the beans are too wet. Everyone will probably want to wait a little while yet before trying.

"Some in our area did try last Friday but stopped as it was just too

wet."

For the corn, this last snowfall will just elongate the drying process continued Kruger.

"I'm thinking it may be tough to get under 20 percent moisture with the corn this year."

The forecast last week was for another inch of rain Sunday into Monday which put producers between a

Harvest

(continued on page 3)