



## Pheasant season has slow opening weekend

A cool, blustery weekend in northeast South Dakota ushered in the 2013 pheasant season. Weather really wasn't a problem. A lack of pheasants was the rule, with few exceptions to the rule.

The consensus among most conservation officers, reported Clark County Game, Fish and Parks officer Kyle Lenzner, is that hunting pressure was way down. "There was less pressure than last year and last year it was down," said Lenzner.

The average number of birds on both days, Saturday and Sunday, was probably around a half bird per hunter, thought the conservation officer.

Lenzner said most hunters were prepared to hunt hard and see few birds. "The weather wasn't all that great, but what made hunting even tougher is that the crops aren't out. The birds are still in the fields."

It is safe to say that a lack of pheasants has brought about a lack of pheasant hunters in Clark County for opening weekend. "But we did have hunters and the ones I talked to seemed to be enjoying themselves and having a good time."

### The future of pheasants

"Everyone wonders how long it will be before birds are back," Lenzner continued. In his estimation, current factors and consider-

ations this year make it possible for next year. "That's a tough one, as in our profession we try to predict the future and analyze the present, but it is so dependent upon Mother Nature. If the weather cooperates it will make a difference."

### No accidents

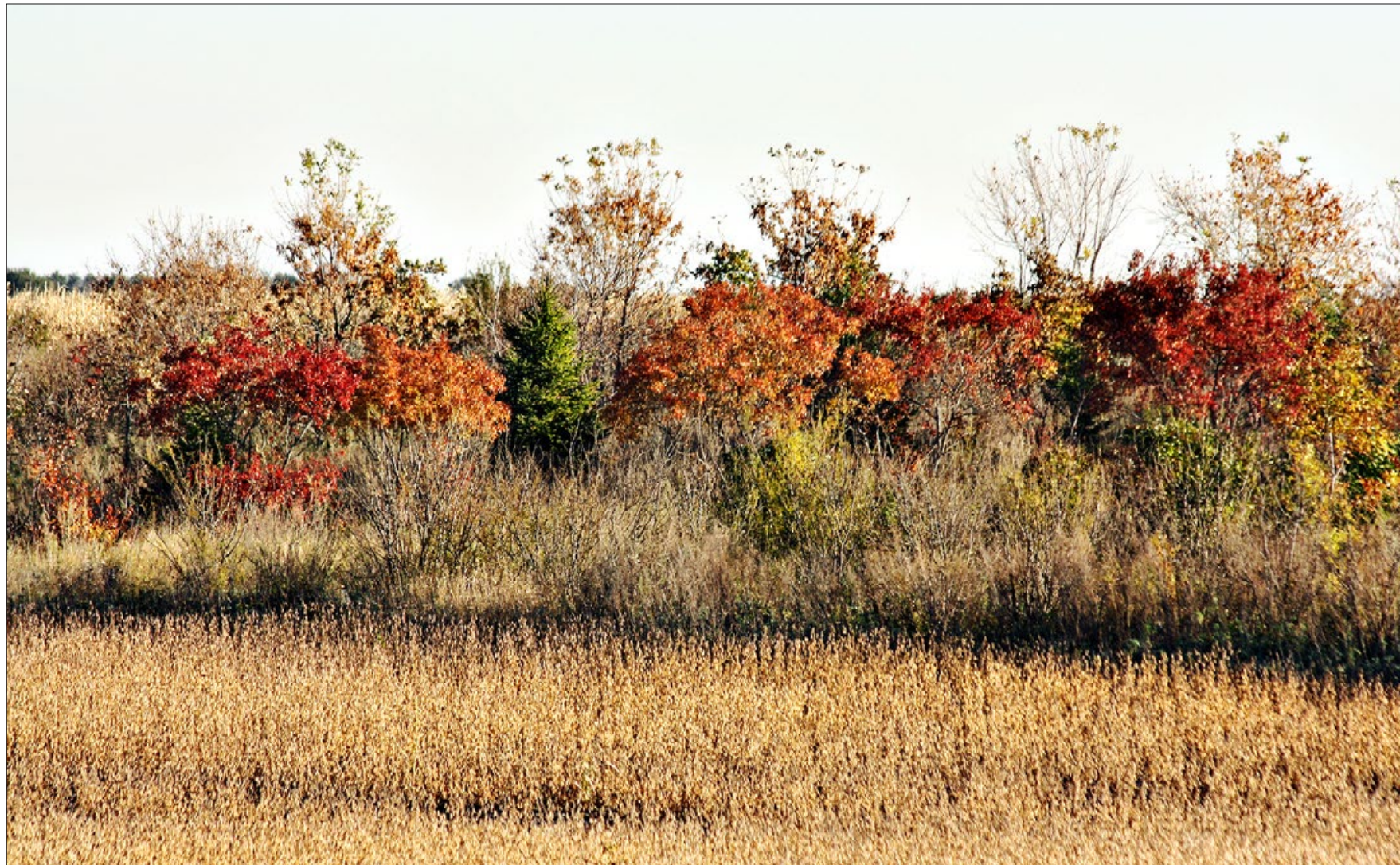
"We didn't have any accidents in the area and with a lack of hunting pressure, it really made my job easier than my peers tell me of opening weekends past," stated the game warden. With hunting pressure down so were tickets handed out for wrong doing, he implied.

### Waterfowl season

Waterfowl season is off to a good start. Hunters are having success, according to Lenzner. "The front stage of the migration is just beginning. Small ducks have left the area and we're starting to get a few new ones." Lenzner suggested that if hunters like to hunt waterfowl, this would be a good year to key on ducks and geese over pheasants.

### Deer are in crops

"The only problem with one trying to see a lot of deer this time of year is that with crops still in, there are a lot of places for the deer to hide. Pheasants, too. As soon as the crops come out, deer and pheasant will be more visible. I was duck hunting Tuesday morning of this week, and while hunting I saw 10 to 15 deer," he ended.



## October + frost = beautiful fall foliage

With the ability to do color pictures on the front of the *Clark County Courier*, an annual tradition will be to showcase the county's fall foliage, and in this case with soybeans in the foreground.

Taken near Mike and Charlene Henderson's shelterbelt, located just west of Clark on US 212, one can notice the various shades of red and

yellow.

With low temperatures forecast in the 20's and highs in the 40's this week, very average for this time of year, leaves could begin falling quite rapidly. Until then, enjoy the scenic fall colors.

### Senior Features of 2013

## Bernice Halling is a life-long educator



"If one read the Ingalls Wilder books, that's what my life was like growing up," says Bernice (Jones) Halling. She grew up five miles southwest of Crocker. "We had hardships like everyone else, but we were raised working together as a family along with good food and lots of love."

Bernice retired in 2001 after 41 years of teaching at Clark and Crocker area schools and continues to substitute teach when needed. "I love being around people, volunteering and working with kids," says Halling.

Since she was five years old, Bernice Halling had always wanted to be a teacher. "The teacher I remembered the most was Jeanie Obermeier, my seventh grade teacher. She was a good singer and organized our first Christmas program at the Mallard Slough School near Crocker. She was also a good friend to me and probably inspired me the most in my teaching career," states Halling.

Bernice Alice Jones was born on August 24, 1939 on the family farm southwest of Crocker to Austin and Ethel (Jenkins) Jones. Marian, Rich-

ard, Loren, Bernice and Lois were their children with a 14 year spread between Marian and Lois.

### Grandparents

I. L. and Emma Jones lived on the well known Jones ranch north of Raymond, known for their grand champion Angus when I. L. farmed with his father Vid Jones in earlier years. Emma died from complications after surgery in 1925 and I. L. later married Bessie Kennealley. "Grandpa Jones was very outgoing and loved people," says Halling. He kept a journal that documented when he first came to South Dakota with his family when he was 10 years old. His job on the trip was herding the horses along between the wagons as they traveled from Monmouth, Ill.

Fred and Minnie (Baumann) Jenkins lived near Raymond. Her grandfather Fred died when Bernice was three, after which her grandmother Minnie then lived with her son Doyle and his wife Vera Jenkins. "She was a hard working German lady," recalls Halling fondly. "We always went to their home on Christmas and Easter."

### Growing up in the Crocker Hills

"We were a close family raised with a lot of love. My dad was a mild mannered man and very generous. He always made sure we had what we needed, including our Sunday best clothes for the holidays. Mom was a wonderful lady. She was always upbeat and encouraged us in everything we wanted to do. She worked out in the field along with my dad on our diversified farm and also had a big garden at home and did a lot of canning. She had always wanted to be a teacher, but didn't get the chance to go to school to become one, but she spent many, many years being the chairman of the Mallard Slough School board before it closed. I can't say enough nice things about my folks.

"My brother Loren and I were two years apart and we spent a lot of time together. Catching gophers with strings made into snares placed over their holes was one thing we did. We would get paid for every gopher tail turned in.

"About five years old was when I started milking cows. We also gathered eggs, fed the chickens, bottle lambs and calves.

"When school started our routine was to milk cows, feed our ponies, get cleaned up for school and then eat breakfast. Mom would pack our lunch

### Halling

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## Today, October 23 is Winter Weather Preparedness Day

The color filled (or leaf-less) trees, cool nights and football filled weekends are all indicators of fall in the northern plains and in Clark County. This also means that the cold and snow of winter are right around the corner. State and National Weather Service officials say that, despite South Dakota's generally mild fall, it isn't too early to make preparations for winter weather. The state has definitely had a taste of fall/winter storms as western South Dakota and the Black Hills region were devastated the Oct. 4-6 weekend. Cattle casualties are listed in the 15-20,000 range and beautiful trees lost many limbs as wet snow and wind really did damage in the western third of South Dakota.

We definitely had a taste of wet fall weather last week, as rain came down for two days straight and it was expected rain, but a soaker that we haven't seen in a while.

Most reporting spots in Clark County showed 2" and 3" of rain for the week. We're lucky it wasn't 10" cooler or there really would have been a white mess.

Football playoffs and Halloween coming means that there also is the chance of some inclement snow storm weather.

Winter storms, especially bliz-

zards, can be very dangerous. Preparing before extremely cold, snowy weather occurs can save your life. Know what winter storm watches and warnings mean. If a Winter Storm Watch has been issued for your area, hazardous winter weather conditions (such as snow greater than six inches in 24 hours, winds gusting over 35 mph, or visibilities less than a quarter mile) are expected in the next 12 to 36 hours. A Winter Storm Warning means the conditions listed for the Watch exist.

Try to stay indoors during a blizzard. If you have to go outside to check on animals or for another rea-

### Winter weather (continued on page 3)

### WEATHER

Ryan Eggleston - Official Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
Oct. 15.....	43	28	.15
Oct. 16.....	52	28	0
Oct. 17.....	41	28	.10
Oct. 18.....	45	27	tr
Oct. 19.....	43	34	tr
Oct. 20.....	43	28	0
Oct. 21.....	41	29	tr
2013 precipitation to date	25.05"		
2012 precipitation to date	17.20"		

## Knowledge about Common Core not so common

A story by  
**Dakotafire**  
dakotafire.net

By Heidi Marttila-Losure, Dakotafire Media  
Reporting by Garrick Moritz, Faulk County Record, and Sarah Gackle

As Common Core standards started going into effect in Dakota classrooms this fall, state education leaders probably expected to spend some time explaining what the standards are.

But Ryan Townsend, director of academic standards for the N.D. Department of Public Instruction, said he's spent a lot of time lately explaining what the standards are not.

The standards had strong support from many corners until this fall, when educators started hearing a lot of pushback, according to Townsend.

"A lot of it is based on misinformation, unfortunately," he said.

He's had to combat a lot of myths: No, there's no mandate in the standards to teach sex education in kindergarten. No, the Qur'an is not a mandatory text, and the Bible is not banned. No, the standards are not mandated by the federal government.

"I'm really glad people are calling," he said. "When they call, I get a chance to talk to them. I can explain why the Common Core is so important."

A Gallup Poll released in August suggested that most Americans aren't getting reliable information

about the Common Core standards. In fact, 62 percent of Americans had never heard of it, including 55 percent of public school parents.

And of those who had heard of it, many had key facts about it wrong (for example, many thought—incorrectly—the federal government requires states to adopt the standards).

Even after the misinformation about the Common Core is cleared away, debate about its purpose and how to implement it remains. Here's an overview of what's happening and what's at stake.

### A state-level initiative

The Common Core standards began from conversations that state education leaders and governors were having about their schools in the late 2000s. First, it was clear

that U.S. students were not doing well compared to students in other countries, and years of reform and effort hadn't moved the needle much.

Second, because each state had different standards, what the typical high school graduate knew when going on to college or into the work force varied greatly.

The results of 2012 ACT scores "show alarming gaps between the knowledge and skills needed to earn a diploma and the knowledge and skills to actually be prepared for education and training after high school," according to a PowerPoint presentation given out by the nonprofit group Achieve the Core, whose founders were involved in writing the Common Core standards. High rates of remediation, including at Dakota colleges, result

from that.

Third, these different standards are especially difficult for children who move from one state to another. About 13 percent of children move across state lines each year, according to the National Center for Education Statistics, and those children are likely to be from low-income, military or immigrant families. "Many of them lose their place in the educational order and never recover," writes Bill Keller in the *New York Times*.

This is part of the reasoning that prompted the states, along with teachers and experts, to work together to form new standards.

The federal government had no role in the standards' development and did not mandate their adoption.

There were some "carrots" from the federal level that might have

encouraged states to adopt the Common Core: The Race to the Top initiative, which was from the federal level, encouraged states to develop higher standards as part of the competition for more funding. Some states applied for waivers to the No Child Left Behind requirements, which were more likely to be granted if states raised their standards. But neither of these programs was mandatory, and neither required that the higher standards be the Common Core Standards.

Neither Dakota is a Race to the Top state; South Dakota did receive a No Child Left Behind waiver in 2012. South Dakota adopted the Common Core Standards in 2010, and North Dakota did so in 2011.

### Common Core (continued on page 8)