

Celebrating traditions and friendships is an important part of the pheasant hunt

'Celebrating friendships' has become just as important as the hunting pheasants part of this group's annual trek back to South Dakota the third weekend in October.

The late Delmer Stern and his wife Lynda had become good friends with this group due to the relationship of Doug Healy and Brian Kennedy who met at Drake University in Iowa when both were working on their pharmacist degree.

Doug Healy is the son of Don Healy - who owned the farm on which Delmer worked in his younger years. Delmer and Lynda bought the Healy farm in the 1980s and Lynda still runs the operation along with her son Kyle and his wife Danae.

One year when Doug's friend Brian Kennedy and his brother Pat Kennedy who was visiting from Wisconsin were going hunting in Iowa, they were encouraged by Doug to try hunting in South Dakota on their old farm - now the Stern land.

"And it all started from there," stated Brian Kennedy. "The pheasants are secondary really, we come out here to keep the relationships alive. We've watched the Stern kids

grow up in front of us since 1994. We've been to Jill's basketball games and her wedding and now her husband and family are in the loop, the Arnesons from Florence."

Some of the group even attended Kennedy Stern's dance recital this past year. "Now Kyle's kids we're getting to know, too," stated B. Kennedy. "We bought Kyle his first shotgun one year - an over and under, when he was in junior high and came hunting with us. Delmer drove us around in a Winnebago camper those earlier years. We've had some great times over the years with their family and Lynda has always been so good to us. We've stayed with their extended family over the years, too at Virgil and Lois Stern's several years."

Randy Breuer, a school friend of Pat Kennedy's has also been with the group from the early years as has Bob Simmet, both from Minnesota.

Steve Yulga and Scott Lutjen have hunted with the group the last three years. Yulga was excited to bring his 11-month old German Shorthair 'Misa' with the group this year to see and learn what it's all about - hunting with a group.



Since 1994, members of this hunting group from Minnesota and Wisconsin have had an ongoing friendship with the Delmer and Lynda Stern family and now the tradition continues with the next generation of family members - Kyle and Danae Stern and Jill and Tom Arneson.

Shown on opening day last Saturday before heading out from the Prairie Hills Ranch location owned by

Mike Deaner are left to right - standing in back - Bob Simmet, Kyle Stern, Mike Deaner, Lynda Stern and Pat Kennedy. In front left to right are kneeling - Brian Kennedy, Steve Yulga, Scott Lutjen, Kennedy Stern, Danae Stern, Gentry Stern and Randy Breuer. Hunting dogs in front of their masters are Simon, Misa, Windsor, Bailey and Heidi.

Lutjen turned down a Vikings game in London to come on this year's trip. "I'm going hunting I told them, find another guy for that ticket," he said. Lutjen brought Windsor - the Golden Retriever with him. "The only actual retriever in the group who brings the birds back. The rest of the dogs are finders," chuckled Lutjen who celebrated his birthday also on Saturday.

B. Kennedy brought his chiseled German Shorthair Pointer named 'Simon' and Breuer also brought a Shorthair Pointer named 'Bailey' and his Doberman named 'Heidi'. "Heidi doesn't hunt, she's more for looks," stated Breuer. "She keeps the undesirables away."

Memories

The conversation in the group reflected on the years they had the dogs 'Magic' and 'Thunder' with them when they used to hunt ducks in the morning and pheasants after noon. "Thunder would retrieve the ducks and Magic would then eat them. There were none left, ever - zero sum gain for the day," laughed the Kennedy brothers.

Stern pheasant hunt
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Clark firemen show students how to cut into a vehicle

As Clark Elementary students observed Fire Safety Month a special treat was in order for the students. Clark firemen Tony Werdel, Lake Gogolin, Jack Beachler and Justin Bowers sawed the car into pieces, dismantling and chopping up the vehicle.

Said fireman Tony Werdel, "We wanted to show the elementary students different parts of a fireman's job. We demonstrated 'sounds of an accident, showed students our equipment and gave a 'hands-on' approach to our role as firemen."

Saturday success was better than Sunday success for the pheasant hunt

"The hunter had better success on Saturday than he did on Sunday," said Clark County Game, Fish and Parks Conservation Officer Zach Thomsen of the opening weekend of the South Dakota Pheasant Season.

The comment Thomsen said he kept hearing from hunters was that there were a good number of birds, "but with the crops still in the fields, the birds were hard to get."

Hunting will get better as harvest continues and with all the producers in the field it could get better sooner rather than later.

"The weather was just great," Thomsen continued, as it was fairly chilly, early, but warmed up nicely, but not too warm that dogs would overheat. "Sure, it was a little breezy but not so windy as to keep the pheasants from not moving."

Even though it is Thomsen's first 'opener' in Clark, he felt confident to comment, "Things from my perspective seemed very good. Very few issues and hunters saw good numbers of birds, so I would term Saturday and Sunday as 'very good'."

South Dakota is celebrating its 100th year of pheasant hunting.

"Pheasant hunting is all about the comradery, the tradition and having fun hunting," said the conservation officer and then he spoke of road hunting.

"If one wants to road hunt, they need to carefully read the G.F & P brochure," said Thomsen. It reads: *Hunting on Public Road Rights-of-Way. Laws and rules governing trespass and motor vehicles are complex. The laws may be simplified if the hunter remembers to hunt only on foot during established seasons, to ask permission to enter private land and not to drive on state and*

Pheasant hunt
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Mystery Snowperson Clue 50th Annual Snow Queen Festival Mystery Snowperson Contest

"My spouse is a local but I am from 45 miles away"

Send guesses to: Sharon Larson, 400 3rd Ave. NE, Clark, SD 57225 or email: Sharlar@itctel.com

Will winter 2018-19 be mild and dry?

▲ El Nino will play a role

As Halloween is but one week away, thoughts turn to winter and one wonders 'what will this winter weather have in store for us?'

With parts of South Dakota having already seen its first snowfall of the year, officials of the South Dakota Office of Emergency Management (OEM) say it is time to prepare for the inevitable arrival of winter.

Wednesday, Oct. 24, is Winter Weather Awareness Day in South Dakota. The day serves as a reminder that, sooner or later, winter weather will be here.

"We may not like to think about it, but we have to be ready for the winter season," says Tina Titze, director of the Office of Emergency Management. "That means getting

your vehicles and homes ready and making sure people know what to do during severe weather. By preparing now, you can be ready."

Among the preparation tips OEM suggests are:

*Monitor local weather forecasts when winter storms are approaching;

*Make sure you have enough supplies, including food, prescription medication and batteries, if you get stranded at home;

*When traveling during the winter, make sure you have a winter survival kit in your vehicle and check road conditions before you leave.

"We had major snow storms last year where highways were closed and people were forced to stay in

their homes for at least a day or two," Titze says. "It can happen and it is best to be ready BEFORE the severe weather hits."

Winter (continued on page 12)

WEATHER			
Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer			
	HI	LO	PR
Oct. 16.....	57	28	0
Oct. 17.....	54	28	0
Oct. 18.....	71	40	0
Oct. 19.....	63	32	0
Oct. 20.....	42	29	0
Oct. 21.....	60	37	0
Oct. 22.....	60	28	0
2018 precipitation to date	16.96		
2017 precipitation to date	22.71		

TRICKS & TREATS for Halloween

Halloween falls on a Wednesday this year and so far with no snow on the ground, leaves will be the only obstacles in the way as trick or treaters head out for their bounty.

The weekend before Halloween in Clark offers Trunk or Treat at Dickinson Park on Sunday, October 28 from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m.

A haunted house for 12 and un-

der ages will be held on Saturday, October 27 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the corner of Utah Street and 2nd Avenue NW.

Willow Lake will have their Halloween Carnival at the Willow Lake gym on Friday, October 26. Doors open at 6:00 for lunch/registration and the costume parade will begin at 6:30 p.m. Carnival games and

inflatables will be ongoing until 9:00 p.m.

At the Bryant Parkview Assisted Living Center and Apartments, they welcome their dressed up visitors between the hours of 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. on Halloween night.

In Clark, the Clark Care and Re-

Tricks & Treats
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Some great fall decorations are visible

With pheasant season upon us, great Rooster Rush decorations adorn the community. This is the scene at the Clark Farmers Elevator Agronomy Center, located along US Highway 212, on the west side of Clark. It is also noteworthy that there was a good pumpkin

crop this year, as many shapes and sizes of pumpkins are visible at many businesses and residences to provide the creative fall decor.

The forecast for this week is fall-like, and dry.