

Clark County Courier

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Cyclone VB season ends in Region 2A -See page 6

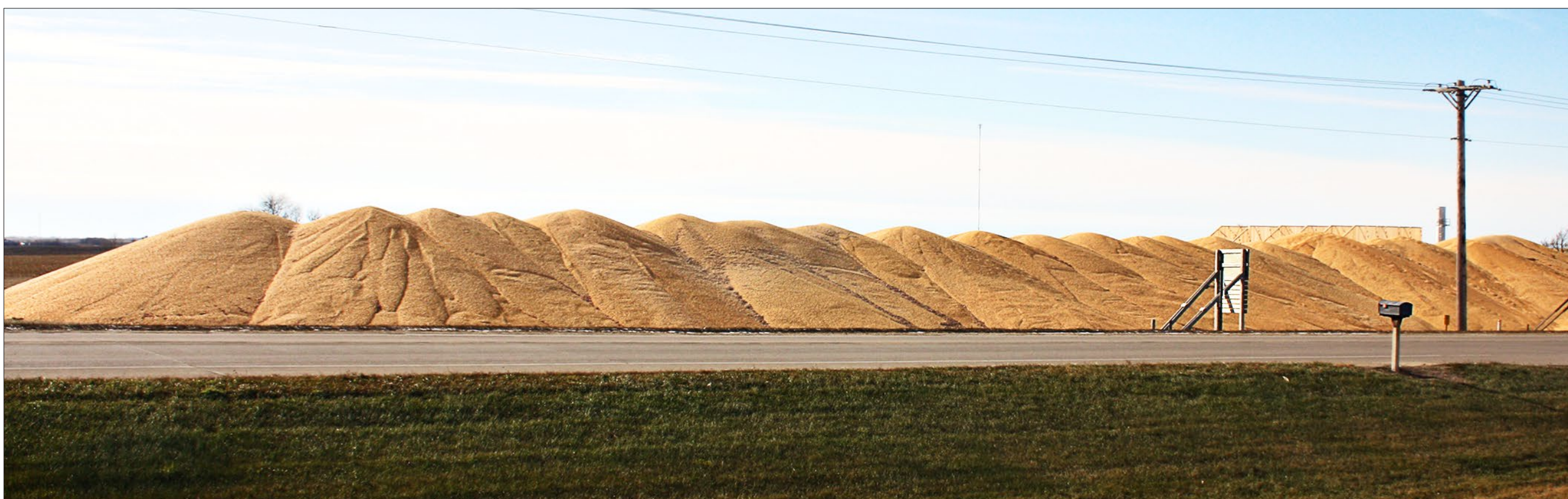
Wednesday, November 13, 2013

Vol. 133, No. 20

www.clarkcountypublishing.com

\$1.00

The hometown newspaper of Elwood Multhaupt, Monett, M.O.



Corn piles have been cropping up all across the South Dakota landscape this month. As harvest nears completion corn is temporarily being stored on the ground. Each end of Clark, east and west, boasts a pile of corn. At this pace, harvest will more than likely be finishing up just in time for the rifle deer season. As usual, Mother Nature will have this last say on the matter.

Corn harvest has piles and smiles all over the county

"This year's corn harvest has been pleasantly surprising," states Jeff Olson, manager of the Clark County Farmers Elevator. "We're about three quarters of the way done but there is still a lot of corn out there."

"The ground is soggy from all the moisture which makes for conditions producers need to be aware of, but the weight of the corn is good. "Yields for this year's corn crop are all over the place," continued Olson. "Some are really good, nearing 200 and some aren't so good, close to 100. There were a lot of environmental factors this year. Some areas had hail, others too much rain early on and there

was a really dry period in August. A lot of it depended upon catching rain when it was really needed, just at the right time. The moisture content is coming down now but still fairly wet, requiring most producers to dry their corn. All in all, with no problems, it's been a nice successful corn harvest," ends Olson.

"Your area is lucky you didn't get that last four inch snowfall. That pretty much shut down the corn harvest from Brookings on south," said SDSU Extension Agronomy field specialist Paul Johnson. "It's tough to get in those fields now, especially with a semi."

"Closer to the Watertown area,

we're about 70% done with the corn harvest. The beans are basically out with only a field here or there yet to go. Ahead of time, we thought the bean yield wouldn't be as good but it turns out, it came out with everyone being pretty pleased overall with their results. The bean yield was average for the year with some on heavy ground being above average. The price isn't what it was last year, that is a concern, however."

"The corn harvest is coming in really good. It's all above average," continued Johnson. "Some areas are concerned with test weight and then another area will have real good test weights. The corn hasn't

dried down as much as we would have liked. We matured that crop out pretty quick. The husks are pretty tight on the corn cobs and we're not getting dry down as fast. I'm hearing about 18-20%, kind of average on the moisture content I'm seeing," noted the field specialist.

Rick Flatten at Wheat Growers in Willow Lake estimates that his area's corn harvest is about 80-85% complete as of last Friday.

"People are happy with the yields," stated Flatten. "They are ranging from 145 to 180 bushels per acre. The test weights are good, being 56 to 57. Moisture in the corn is from 15.5 to 25% mois-

ture this year. It's been a pretty good harvest from what I've been hearing," ends Flatten.

Corn prices are one of the big concerns for producers. As of Monday afternoon corn was at \$3.75 per bushel. It was nearly \$7.00 a bushel last year at this time.

"We're seeing more cornstalks being baled up this year," noted ag specialist Johnson. "Since the shortage of hay in recent years, there's been more of a switch over to baling cornstalks to be mixed with distillers grains for winter feeding rations for livestock. Last year intensified it with the shortage of hay."

"Most producers got a third

cutting of hay this year and some looked at a fourth cutting. The hay was slow getting going this year with the cool temperatures early on, but once it got started, it did pretty good and we got some good yields with our hay too," ended the agronomist.

"While the area yields for corn are similar to last year, or even up a little from a year ago, most farmers are pleasantly satisfied because they are doing better than expected," closed Olson.

2014 Snow Queens crowned on Saturday

Annabell Ryan was crowned the 2014 Clark Area Snow Queen at Saturday night's 45th annual Snow Queen Festival. Retiring queen Hannah Steffen then passed on the crown to this year's winner. Ryan will represent Clark County at the State Snow Queen competition in January at Aberdeen.

Annabell is the daughter of Denise Meyer.

Alexis Lau, daughter of David and Wanda Lau was crowned Junior Snow Queen by retiring queen Allyson Monson. Lau will represent Clark County at the Junior Snow Queen Festival in January. The first runner-up in the Junior Snow Queen competition and Miss Congeniality was Michaela Flora, daughter of Mike and Rae Jean Flora. Second runner-up was Lacey Waage, daughter of Jennifer Waage.

When the secret identity of the Mystery Snowperson was revealed as Lon Reidburn, many in the crowd were surprised. Dana Stern however wasn't fooled as he followed and figured out the clues given each week in the *Clark County Courier*. With Stern's guess of Lon Reidburn, he won Clark script money. Terry Schlagel was the emcee for



Senior Snow Queen Annabell Ryan, right and Junior Snow Queen Alexis Lau, left, are all smiles after being crowned Saturday. Ryan and Lau will now compete in their respective South Dakota Snow Queen Festivals in January, in Aberdeen.

the evening festival and Sharon Stormo was the pianist. Crowned as Little Miss was Leah Nelson, daughter of Bruce and Amy Nelson and Little Master was Michael Severson, son of Jason and Michelle

Severson.

The entire program was coordinated by the Clarkettes and was sponsored by over 100 area businesses.

Oak Tree Energy given the county 'go ahead' for wind farm

The conditional use permit for Oak Tree Energy was approved unanimously by Clark County Board of Commissioners at their meeting, Tuesday, November 5.

Also approved by the commissioners that day were nine of the 10 variances brought to the table at the hearing in the courthouse basement.

This conditional use permit allows Oak Tree Energy to bring a finalized reality to this wind farm project which has taken over a decade in sweat and equity to get to this point.

"By the end of next year this project will be completed if we can start by the end of this year. We have a one year time frame to complete this project," stated Michael Makens representing Oak Tree Energy.

Oak Tree Energy is owned by the Makens family, Bill Makens and sons Michael, Pat and James. The family also owns Oak Tree Lodge located six miles northeast of Clark.

Thirteen wind towers will be erected between two and five miles

north of Clark, which will make up the Clark Wind Farm. All are located in Garfield and Mount Pleasant townships with eight towers west of 424th Ave. (County Oil #6) and five towers to the east, within two miles of County #6.

"South Dakota has a good wind resource and we plan on farming that wind. This farm will generate \$60,000 per year to the county in gross receipt taxes. That is 1.2 million dollars in 20 years time. We have a 20 year contract with Northwestern Energy. This will also help them to be diversified, using a renewable energy (wind power) by 2015, to adhere to the renewable energy act," said Michael Makens of Oak Tree Energy.

The question was asked, "Will this raise our electric rates?" The answer was, "it should cut your rates over the 20 years," said Makens.

Questions also arose at the meeting concerning area roads. Oak Tree Energy's general contractor, Jay Gislason with Diversified Ener-

gy Solutions was in attendance at the hearing. Gislason stated, "We will document the roads before we start and make sure they are no worse than when we started. Some roads will need to be built out more. We plan on starting that this fall. We have a road haul agreement on the county roads. We will take care of the roads and will improve the roads we use. We will have to widen some corners but they will be temporary corners."

"Roads built to the towers from the road will be the responsibility of the project, not the townships." The cost will be borne by the project to clean snow on these roads and if needed agreements will need to be made.

The question came up, "Will wildlife numbers be affected?" Deer walk around underneath them and ducks fly in between them," were the answers from the crowd from those visiting wind towers at Oak Tree Lodge and in Day County in

Oak Tree Energy (continued on page 6)

As November hits the mid point, pheasant hunting has been slow

"Very slow" is how Clark County Game, Fish and Parks conservation officer Kyle Lenzner describes the pheasant season to this point. He stated that it was very comparable to a year ago, as well, as this is the second consecutive year of a 'slow' season. The game warden speculates that hunters are probably bagging a bird per hunter compared to just half a bird on average the opening weekends.

"It's starting to pick up," Lenzner continued. "As crops come out, more birds are being seen."

Lenzner said that weather the last two years has not been pheasant-friendly, especially late last winter and throughout the spring.

"The late winter was very hard on the birds and it is a long recovery process," he said. "Our numbers are up from a year ago, but we're still down."

"Hunters are up beat and tell me they're working hard to see birds and some hunters do flush out pockets of birds, but there still is enough corn still in the fields for cover. Hunters tell me that they just haven't seen a lot of birds."

"Things are beginning to pick up," Lenzner reiterated, "compared to the middle of last month."

The biggest complaints the conservation officer has been seeing deal with road hunting laws and the 660' law. "With all the raccoons

and coyotes it should be another good year for trackers and maybe, just maybe that will help the pheasant population in years to come, as well," said Lenzner.

G, F & P Region 1 game manager Jacqui Ermer followed up on this topic. "The pheasants had a couple of tough winters and wet springs to deal with as well as losing much needed winter and nesting cover. Pheasant hunting has obviously been a little more challenging this year. Hunters are having a little more success in Spink, Faulk, Edmunds and McPherson counties where they are averaging one to one and a half birds per hunter. Elsewhere in the northeast region,

hunters are averaging less than a bird and even down to one half bird per hunter.

"Crop harvest has been slow this fall with the wet weather we experienced in most of October. Corn harvest has picked up and hunters and farmers are starting to see a few more pheasants this past week. Most hunters were aware of the pheasant forecast but were still up for the challenge and the quality time spent with family and friends in the field," she stated.

Waterfowl hunting

"The arctic cold front early this week could push quite a few ducks down from the north," said game warden Lenzner. "Also, quite a few

geese are due to move in as temperatures chill. The weather will determine when and where geese migrate, but at this point it looks like there will be a normal flight pattern."

As far as waterfowl hunting success, that is dependent upon several factors, mainly weather related. It has been just too nice lately for great waterfowl hunting, but snows and swans are due to show up, giving hunters in the county a good mixture.

Deer season is quickly approaching, about 10 days away and drivers really need to be wary, as bucks are on the move, chasing does, causing an increase in car accidents.

"This also has been a really good fall for fishing," ended Lenzner. "Those who have gone out have had success, especially in the evenings."

WEATHER

Ryan Eggleston - Official Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
Nov. 5	35	21	0
Nov. 6	38	19	0
Nov. 7	47	17	0
Nov. 8	52	35	tr
Nov. 9	41	17	0
Nov. 10	43	17	0
Nov. 11	18	4	0
2013 precipitation to date	25.19"		
2012 precipitation to date	17.64"		