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Drought conditions speed up corn harvest

Will there be a corn harvest starting in Clark County by Labor Day? This seems like an absurd question, but in this growing year of abnormally dry weather conditions, corn harvest will definitely speed ahead. "Different day, same song might

be the response to the latest release of the US Drought Monitor as conditions have not changed appreciably in the last week," said Dennis Today, SDSU Extension State Climatologist in his August 23 drought summary. Cooler than average con-

ditions had dominated the state and region over the last couple weeks. While too late for many crops, it does reduce overall stress conditions and makes conditions more

Drought
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Emergency Disaster Declaration

The Clark County Board of Commissioners passed a disaster declaration resolution because of the dry/drought conditions in the county, at their August 21 meeting.

precipitation, high temperatures and wind causing severe drought type conditions in the spring and summer of 2012; and,

WHEREAS, Clark County has committed all available resources and taken all possible actions within the jurisdictional boundaries to combat and to alleviate the emergency/disaster. Local re-

sources are not adequate to cope with the situation.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Clark County Board of Commissioners at a meeting held on August 21, 2012 it is hereby requested that the Governor declare an emergency/disaster to exist in the County of Clark, South Dakota.



Rafael Diego Anthamatten is the 16th foreign exchange son of Greg Furness to come to Clark school. He is a senior this year and is looking forward to his year in the United States. Getting his driving permit is one of the things he's planning on obtaining as he

drives Greg's Chrysler 300. The newer muscle cars are among his passions as he has a newer Ford Mustang as a screen saver on his computer monitor at home. Home for Rafael is in Naters, Switzerland.

Rafael from Switzerland is Greg Furness' sixteenth foreign exchange student

Rafael Anthamatten of Switzerland is one of this year's seniors at Clark High School. His foreign exchange host parent is Greg Furness, who has been host to 15 students before Rafael, with another son, Lukas Huesler, also from Switzerland (Lucerne). Rafael's family lives in a valley next to the Alps of Switzer-

land in a town of about 1,000 people called Naters. It is located in the very southern part of Switzerland in the Valais region of Canton. They are 45 minutes from Italy and about six hours away from France.

Rafael is fluent in Swiss German, his native language, as well as French and English, which he

has taken in school. He's taken the French class for eight years and English for five. He writes in High German on paper.

He likes to travel, so the foreign exchange program looked good to

Rafael
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Samantha Hensley took over duties at the Emil L. Larson Library on Monday and is very excited to get on with the various plans she has in mind. Having spent four years working at the Palm Harbor Library

in Palm Harbor, Fla. as the children's librarian, she has a lot of fun ideas she wants to integrate into her new job.

Hensley is the new Clark City librarian

"I guess I'm a little old school in the fact I still like the solid book versus a book on a tablet or computer. I don't want kids to lose their love for an actual book," says the new Clark City Librarian Samantha Hensley. She started work on Monday and is excited to re-vamp the library a little with some fun changes.

"I'd like to make it a little more colorful and kid friendly and maybe do some simple programs like we did in Florida that were fun but didn't cost a lot of money," says Hensley with a grin. "For instance we did a stuffed animal sleepover at the library. Young children brought in their stuffed animals and we

took fun pictures of them, reading a book or on top of the globe. They left their animals here then for their 'sleepover', then returned the next day to pick them up and we had a little party with juice and cookies and a story time. It was real fun for

Hensley
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2012 CHS Homecoming theme is Olympics

▲ Coronation is Tuesday, Sept. 4



The 2012 Clark High School Homecoming royalty candidates in the front row, left to right, are Skyler Flatten, Torrey Kolden, Rhett Florey and Colin LaBrie. In the back row, left to right, Janelle Paulson, Shelby

Altfillisch, Cortney Binger and Jamie Finstad. Coronation is scheduled for Tuesday, September 4 at 7:00 p.m. in the Clark High School gym.

Eighty-two years ago the tradition of Homecoming started at Clark High School. The celebration of Homecoming 2012 is the week of September 4 through 7 and the theme is Olympics.

Coronation of the Homecoming Queen and Marshal will be on Tuesday, September 4 beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Clark High School gym.

The Homecoming Parade begins

at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, September 7 with the Cyclone football game starting at 7:00 p.m. at Dickinson Field against the Tiospa Zina Wambdi.

Queen Candidates

Shelby Altfillisch is the daughter of Darin and Melissa Altfillisch. Her activities for the last four years include volleyball, boys basketball

and Luther League.

Cortney Binger is the daughter of Cory and Andrea Binger and Nichole Daphne. Her activities are volleyball, boys basketball, FCCLA, TATU and Luther League.

Jame Finstad is the daughter of Susan and Steve Berg and Brad
Homecoming
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Area school populations are up

▲ Clark, Willow Lake and Henry show gains

In the new millennium, rural South Dakota school districts have continued to lose school populations, but numbers now have stabilized, or seem to be leveling off.

Enrollment decline and school budget concerns seem to go hand in hand as state public school funding is predicated upon student numbers.

Public schools in South Dakota receive \$4,389 in state aid per student in grades K-12.

Enrollments in area schools have continued to decline this past decade and Clark, Willow Lake and Henry are all in the same boat - fewer students. For several consecutive years, the decline continues, but it is tapering off, showing some stability with the decline. The majority of schools throughout rural areas have smaller kindergarten classes every fall than their graduating senior classes had the previous spring.

The 2012-13 school numbers show stability in all three area schools and all three schools have gained in population: nine at Clark, 32 at Willow Lake and seven at Henry.

Enrollment for the three area schools is at 787 compared to 739 a year ago, and 766 two years ago, showing a fluctuation both up and down in Clark County preschool - 12 students.

Clark

A year ago Clark had 381 students PK-12 and this year will have 390 students, showing an increase of nine. Concerning state aid, (K-12, not preschool), Clark School is up four students.

There are 106 students in Clark High School, the same as last year. Thirty-one seniors bid adieu in the spring and 21 kindergarten students have entered the system. The average number of students in each grade at Clark, K-12 is 21.

There are 85 students at colony schools compared to 80 a year ago. The largest class at Clark is the freshman class with 30 students, followed by the sophomore class with 29. Clark School Superintendent Brian Heupel said there are always some move outs and some move ins over the summer months and we're fortunate that we had as many move-ins as move-outs.

"We are getting closer to even school class numbers throughout," said Heupel. "For so long our high school numbers were much larger than the elementary." Grades four through seven now have class numbers in the teens with all others in the twenties, or just one away at this time.

"Things are off to a nice start at Clark Schools this year and right now all thoughts are on Homecoming, as it's very early this year, Sept. 7," he added.

Clark	12	11	10	09
Pre-school	13	12	11	10
Kindergarten	26	21	27	17
Grade 1	21	23	16	18
Grade 2	23	16	18	20
Grade 3	19	17	19	15
Grade 4	22	18	15	23
Grade 5	17	13	21	18
Grade 6	15	20	16	18
Grade 7	18	15	19	33
Grade 8	16	21	31	26
Grade 9	22	31	25	22
Grade 10	30	24	25	25
Grade 11	29	22	24	30
Grade 12	21	26	30	25
Hillcrest	26	34	28	35
Fordham	28	64	59	51
Silver Lake	17	16	13	12
TOTAL	390	381	386	388

Willow Lake

At Willow Lake, school started with 226 students, up 32 from last year. There are 10 kindergarten students compared to 14 seniors who graduated last spring.

Second-year Willow Lake Superintendent Terry Winegar said that it is very nice for a school of Willow Lake's size to increase by 32 students.

"Fifteen of the students are at Mayfield, Shamrock or Collins Hutterite Colonies, and 17 are in Willow Lake," he said. "We had a couple of families move in, as more of the student gains were through the open enrollment route."

Winegar continued, "I really feel our new-look Main Street aided in our increase along with the fact that I feel we are growing academically. Our school culture is attractive and we're trying to do what we can."

Grade 1	10	13	14	10
Grade 2	14	14	9	6
Grade 3	15	9	6	11
Grade 4	10	7	13	8
Grade 5	6	13	10	14
Grade 6	16	10	15	14
Grade 7	9	17	16	8
Grade 8	19	14	10	8
Grade 9	18	9	10	17
Grade 10	10	8	17	16
Grade 11	13	16	16	19
Grade 12	19	14	20	15
Shamrock	11	6	7	9
Mayfield	22	14	15	17
Collins	11	11	10	6
TOTAL	226	194	207	204

Henry

Henry has 171 students for the 2012-13 school term, up seven students from last year.

The biggest class will be the kindergarten class with 17. Last year there were eight kindergarten students.

The class size averages 12 students and the numbers are quite stable with the largest class at 17 and the smallest at eight.

Superintendent Steve Zirbel noted that preschool doesn't begin until after Labor Day, so the exact number of preschool students will not be known until that time.

"On a positive note, we have 52 football players in the Falcon co-op, grades 7-12," said Zirbel. "Thirty on the high school level, 22 in the seventh and eighth grades."

Homecoming is Sept. 14 at Henry. Clark-Willow Lake will be the football opponent. 'Cartoons' is the homecoming theme.

Henry	12	11	10	09
Pre-school	13	12	11	10
Kindergarten	8	12	17	14
Grade 1	17	9	12	11
Grade 2	9	13	9	15
Grade 3	12	10	13	9
Grade 4	13	13	9	11
Grade 5	14	5	11	11
Grade 6	8	13	11	9
Grade 7	13	13	9	9
Grade 8	14	9	10	13
Grade 9	12	9	15	12
Grade 10	12	17	16	14
Grade 11	13	13	17	13
Grade 12	14	15	10	9
Grade 12	12	13	14	10
TOTAL	171	164	173	160