

Foiles to represent SD in Water Science competition

Emily Foiles has been named the state winner of the 2019 Stockholm Junior Water Prize (SJWP) competition – a prestigious youth award for a water-related science project. Selected for her project on the effects of gray water, Foiles will represent South Dakota at the national competition, June 15, in Columbus, Ohio. Here she will compete against other young researchers from across the country for the opportunity to represent the United States at the international competition, which will take place in Stockholm, Sweden, in late August.

Foiles is a graduating senior at Doland High School. She is the daughter of Dale and Dawn Foiles of Raymond.

The purpose of the SJWP pro-

Emily Foiles



gram is to increase students' interest in water-related issues and to raise awareness about global water challenges. The competition is open to projects aimed at enhancing the quality of life through improvement of water quality, water resource management, water protection, and water and wastewater treatment.



With the recent discovery of the easternmost case of Chronic Wasting Disease in South Dakota, state officials are embarking on a new plan to control the contagious brain illness that kills deer and elk and is threatening the state's multi-million dollar hunting industry.

Photo: Nick Lowrey, South Dakota News Watch

Further spread of Chronic Wasting Disease alarms hunters, wildlife officials

The discovery in March that a rocky mountain elk tested positive for Chronic Wasting Disease in Clark County – the easternmost case ever found in South Dakota – has provided scientists further evidence that the deadly disease is continuing to spread across the state.

The diagnosis comes as new research shows that CWD may be causing some North American deer and elk herds to shrink and has heightened concerns the disease could jump species and begin to kill other animals, including humans. So far, there is no evidence that the contagious disease can be spread to humans, though consuming meat from an infected deer is not advised. CWD causes deer, elk, moose and caribou to literally waste away. The disease causes an infected animal's brain tissue to break down and become sponge-like. As the brain breaks down, the animal loses some survival instincts and eventually loses the ability to feed itself.

The Centers for Disease Control, National Institute for Health and the South Dakota GFP all recommend that people should not eat any animal that looked sick before it was killed or which tested positive for any disease.

"This is a scary disease," said Chad Switzer, wildlife program administrator for the South Dakota Game Fish & Parks Department. "Knowing what I know about the disease, if I harvested a deer from an endemic area, I would have it tested."

In addition to causing deer and elk to endure a slow death, CWD has a direct impact on hunting and could harm the state outdoors economy.

In South Dakota, deer hunters spent more than \$160 million in the state in 2016, according to an economic analysis by the state Game, Fish & Parks Department. About 70,000 South Dakotans hunt deer

and drive an industry with about 3,900 jobs and \$125 million in wages across the state.

"Everyone in the state should have a stake in this," said GFP big-game Biologist Steve Griffin. "It's about our deer."

The new case in Clark County, located west of Watertown, was also the first time in more than 15 years that a deer or elk in one of the state's 70 captive deer facilities had tested positive for the disease. How the elk caught the disease is still a mystery, but an investigation is ongoing, said state Veterinarian Dustin Oedekoven.

Officials have not found any wild deer with CWD in Clark County. But the state has stepped up its monitoring for sick deer in the area and plans to notify deer hunters about the discovery before the next hunting season this fall.

Switzer has been leading a GFP effort to create a new plan for how to deal with the disease in the state wild deer and elk populations. South Dakota wildlife managers plan to get more aggressive both in their monitoring of the disease and in efforts to control its spread. In early July, the state Game Fish & Parks Commission will be presented a new Chronic Wasting Disease Action Plan and consider a set of proposed regulations aimed at better monitoring and controlling the

CWD (continued on page 3)

WEATHER

Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
May 21	57	34	0
May 22	54	44	.34
May 23	55	45	.26
May 24	56	45	.10
May 25	73	44	.09
May 26	64	45	0
May 27	72	52	.01
2019 precipitation to date	11.78		
2018 precipitation to date	4.55		



The gun salute at the War Memorial in Flat Iron Park is an important segment of the Clark American Legion Post #60 Memorial Day Program. Legion Commander Rob McGraw, center, give the 'fire' command.

The Memorial Day Program at the Clark Legion Hall concluded with graveside services at St. Boniface and Rose Hill cemeteries.

Remembering those who gave the ultimate sacrifice

Clark Memorial Day speaker, Pastor Roger Shepherd, gave the nice crowd at the Clark American Legion Hall, Monday, an enlightening historical perspective of Memorial Day in the United States of America.

Starting in 1868, the 'Grand Army of the Republic' decreed May 30 as a 'Nationwide Day of Commemoration' for the over 620,000 soldiers killed in the Civil War.

Becoming 'Decoration Day' the national holiday became 'Memorial Day' in the late '60s or early '70s and was celebrated on the fourth Monday in May, rather than the specific date of May 30.

As Pastor Shepherd continued with the poem 'Flanders Field' and significant fatality statistics, he concluded, "This folks is why we should never-ever stop observing Memorial day for what it is! Not as

a long weekend - not as the kick-off to summer - not a meaningless day off. But as a day to remember the high cost paid...By fathers - mothers- brothers - sisters - sons and daughters...For our Constitution, Declaration of Independence and Bill of Rights. To remain relevant documents in our society. So we can preach the Gospel - or burn the flag in the streets (idiotically). So we can travel state-to-state without passing through checkpoints. Or so we can sit at home and watch uncensored - non government TV. And so we can remain a free people... Because of the liberty that's been handed to us! Gold Bless America!"

Patriotic songs were sung, poetry winners were recognized and the Color Guard led the procession to begin and at the end led the group to Flat Iron Park for the gun salute ceremony. Wreath ceremonies fol-

lowed at St. Boniface and Rose Hill cemeteries.

A flag retirement ceremony by the Clark Boys Scouts was presented after lunch.

On the dais at the Clark American Legion Post #60 American Legion Memorial Day Program, are left to right, speaker Pastor Roger Shepherd, Chaplain Stanley Jongbloed and Commander Rob McGraw.



Clark County is 'plugging away' to reduce the number of pocket gophers

Clark County has recently jumped on board along with other nearby counties in offering a pocket gopher bounty.

Technically the county is offering a portion of the payment. Codington Clark Electric and ITC each pay 50 cents, the county chips in a dollar and local townships will be deciding if they want to add additional monies for the varmints.

Roy Gjerde, Basil Englert and avid trapper James Glanzer brought up the idea at the April 16 Clark County Commissioners meeting. Gjerde had done the leg work in advance in contacting Codington Clark Electric and ITC and letters of intent to pay were waiting in the auditors office when the three approached the Clark County Board of Commissioners in April.

The vote was unanimous in offering the bounty for the gophers moving forward.

In addition to making problems for producers in their hay fields and soybean fields especially when it comes to harvest and cutting times, the varmint gophers can also chew into electrical and fiber optic wiring, shorting them out.

They can even cause a power outage," added Gjerde, "And affect your phone/internet service.

"You can find their mounds all over. Once they're there, it gets worse ever year. You rarely see them, they are nocturnal and only come out at night. Now and then our dog will dig one out. One gopher will keep digging up mounds and all are connected in a row. They eat roots so you'll often see mounds



Roy Gjerde who farms near Vienna in Foxton Township points out a pocket gopher hole he located under a pocket gopher mound on the edge of his field. They're a tricky thing to trap he explained and can do a lot of damage in hay fields and soybean fields, heaving up the ground.

He showed how the mound usually has a horseshoe shape of fresh dirt on one side and the covered up hole will usually be right under the center of the top of the horseshoe. Putting a trap in the hole and along fence lines where there is a constant source of roots.

"James Glanzer from the Mayfield Colony and Kevin Holida are two trappers that I know of that do

covering up the hole again so they can't see the trap is one method used. Clark County is now offering a bounty on the nocturnal gophers in conjunction with Codington Clark Electric and (ITC) Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative as the gophers cause problems with electrical and telephone lines in addition to making a farmers job harder dodging the mounds of dirt if needed when cutting hay and harvesting. The Clark County Commissioners voted in favor of the bounty at the April meeting.

flickertail gophers seen in the daytime. Flickertails were the ones that many a young boy would try to

Gopher 101

The pocket gophers are not to be confused with the striped or

Pocket gophers (continued on page 6)