



First Dakota Fox Run Open Begins

SPORTS/8

YANKTON DAILY PRESS & DAKOTAN

SATURDAY ■ JULY 28, 2012

f t w v VOLUME 138
NUMBER 79

The Dakotas' Oldest Newspaper | **14 PAGES** | www.yankton.net

75¢



Officials Urge Caution With Use Of CRP Land

BY NATHAN JOHNSON

nathan.johnson@yankton.net

With extremely dry conditions come exceptional fire dangers, and fire departments in Yankton County are asking farmers for their help in avoiding the spread of accidental blazes.

Yankton County Emergency Management Director Paul Scherschligt issued a release Friday afternoon on behalf of the fire departments asking residents to take steps to reduce the threat.

"Many of the fires that have occurred in the county this year have been caused by swathers or mowers cutting hay and other

farm equipment," he stated. "The equipment has hit a rock or a bearing has gone out, creating a spark. The dry conditions allow the fire to spread rapidly."

Earlier this week, for example, a fire was started in the county by a pickup being driven through tall grass.

In particular, fire officials are urging caution because the USDA Farm Service Agency's Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) has opened CRP grasslands for harvesting.

The CRP grasses are thick, Scherschligt noted, which will allow a fire to burn much faster.

"The fire departments understand what

happens with CRP because we do controlled burns on it," Yankton Deputy Fire Chief Larry Nickles told the *Press & Dakotan*. "Now, you take that CRP and have an out of control fire on a windy day, and it can go a long way and get into the crops next to it. A lot of times, you've got the corn fields and bean fields to help stop it. Unfortunately, they're in such bad shape right now, we can't rely on that for help, either."

Local fire departments are asking that a tractor and disk be in the field when harvesting CRP grasses, or a water tank and pump. If a wildfire occurs, these safety measures

CRP | PAGE 5

Fighting For Independence

Retired General Launches New Battle For Ethanol Over Foreign Oil

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF

randy.dockendorf@yankton.net

SCOTLAND — Gen. Wesley K. Clark spent his military career fighting threats to the United States and its citizens.

Now, he's helping fight another battle — this time, against the nation's dependence on foreign oil. He says the heavy reliance on outside sources has drained the American economy and placed the U.S. at the mercy of hostile nations.

The retired four-star general unsuccessfully sought the 2004 Democratic presidential nomination. He joined Growth Energy, which promotes the ethanol industry, as co-chairman in January 2009.

Clark spoke Friday to area corn producers near the POET research center in Scotland, which helps spearhead the nation's work on ethanol.

"I'm a national security guy, and you're the front line of our nation's food independence. We don't have to rely on other nations for food because of you," he told the farmers.

However, the U.S. no longer enjoys that same independence when it comes to energy, Clark said. The nation imports about 9 million barrels of oil per day — or more than 3 billion barrels per year — at a cost of \$300 billion annually.

Again, the nation's farmers can help the U.S. attain energy independence by producing the



Gen. Wesley K. Clark (retired) speaks with farmers gathered Friday for his appearance at the POET research center in Scotland. Clark, who co-chairs Growth Energy, spoke about the need for promoting ethanol and making the United States energy independent.

RANDY DOCKENDORF/P&D

material for alternative energy, Clark said. Last year, the United States used 950,000 barrels of ethanol each day.

"You (farmers) have made us independent of food, and you can make us independent of fuel, which is vital for our children and grandchildren," he said.

With new research, ethanol is branching out from a corn-based industry into cellulosic ethanol using a variety of materials, Clark said. The U.S. can also develop and expand other energy sources, he said.

"We have the technology to dig ourselves out of this situation," he added, referring to dependence on foreign oil.

During Friday's program, State Rep. Frank Kloucek (D-Scotland) presented a resolution proposed by State Sen. Jean Hunhoff (R-Yankton), himself, and other states' legislators. The measure strongly supports and endorses "the further development, use and expansion of cellulosic ethanol."

The resolution was passed at the 67th annual meeting of the Midwestern Legislative Conference of the Council of State Governments. The meeting was held earlier this month in Cleveland.

The resolution is now submitted to the appropriate state, federal and provincial officials. The measure seeks to promote cellu-

losic ethanol at a variety of governmental levels.

Agribusinesses are also supporting the ethanol industry in new ways, Clark said. He pointed to New Holland Agriculture's support for Growth Energy.

Abe Hughes, New Holland's vice president for North American operations, described the company's program supporting ethanol. The producer and seller of agricultural machinery is offering preferred customer pricing on its equipment for producers who sell at least the required amount of corn to the 80 ethanol

CLARK | PAGE 5



Derek Miles approaches the bar during a jump at the January 2008 Derek Miles & Friends pole vault exhibition at the DakotaDome in Vermillion.

P&D FILE PHOTO

Local Pole Vaulter Ready For His Final Olympic Appearance

BY JEREMY HOECK

jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

VERMILLION — "You make one bar, you go to the next."

Derek Miles calls that the pole vaulter's mindset. You always want to push forward; to accomplish one goal and focus on the next one.

For the 39-year-old University of South Dakota graduate and current assistant track coach, however, his third appearance at the Olympic Games — where he has twice finished in the top eight in his event — will be his last.

Though Miles finished outside the qualifying mark at last month's trials in Eugene, Ore., he previously met the London Olympics standard back in 2011. As he heads to England next Thursday, Miles is not only battling an Achilles injury but the fact that this is his last competition.

"It's a little surreal in terms of calling it quits," he said during a media session in Vermillion a week ago. "It's exciting to be able to do the things I'm doing here



Miles

coaching-wise. That fills that void a little bit."

That void is about to be filled with the preeminent athletic event in the world — a stage Miles knows all about.

The Sacramento, Calif. native and current resident of Tea finished seventh in the pole vault at the 2004 Olympics in Athens, Greece, and was fourth at the 2008 Games in Beijing, China. Miles owns a personal best jump of 19-feet-2.5, but says he has been most focused on recovering from his injury.

"I can do some things without much pain, but then a couple of things definitely show in terms of how bad it is," he said. Normally, the most intense pain comes in acceleration patterns or in dead springs. "I try not to test it too much, because the more you do

MILES | PAGE 5

LET THE GAMES BEGIN



DAVID EULITT/KANSAS CITY STAR/MCT

The Olympic cauldron burns in Olympic Stadium during the Opening Ceremony for the London 2012 Summer Olympic Games in London, England, Friday. For more information, see page 5.



COLLISION ON CAPITAL

Yankton Police responded Friday morning to a three-vehicle accident in the 400 block of Capital St. A 1998 Plymouth Voyager collided with a 2007 Chevy Impala. The Impala then struck a 2009 Pontiac Torrent. (Angella Pechous/P&D)

Introducing **A NEW ERA IN SURGICAL CARE**
It's not just surgery, It's your choice.

Avera 
Sacred Heart Hospital