

Letter to the Editor

Why are so many people in the tri-county area so concerned about losing local representation in the potential CNPPD-Dawson PPD merger? Why is it such a big deal for our local economy? It all boils down to the value of the water that is delivered through Central's well-managed canal system.

We know we need water, but what is it worth in terms of dollars for our local economy? We need water for our crops, our livestock, and our homes. A strong economy funds our schools and local government and it provides good paying jobs for our citizens. It all boils down to the economic value of water.

We all know the value of this well-managed tri-county system, which has served this area with great benefit for over 70 years. This project has made this area the envy of the whole country. Just ask the people in western Kansas and Texas what it's like to have a dwindling water supply and little to no solutions to fix the problem.

Research by UNL has shown that an acre inch of water will produce 12 bushels of corn. So, in Kearney County, the average net irrigation requirement for corn is 10 inches. This means 10 inches of water will produce an additional 120 bushels of corn. At \$7, that will generate \$840 of income per acre. With 580 thousand acres in Tri-Basin NRD,

that generates over \$480 million for its citizens.

It is no wonder that this tri-county area cannot tolerate any changes in the makeup of central of Central's board of directors. Over time, it would transfer board representation to the jurisdiction of Central Platte NRD, who are elected to protect their self-interests, which can conflict with our water users. We can never let that happen. We cannot put our compliance with the Kansas Nebraska Republican River compact in jeopardy while allowing aquifer water levels to drop.

According to the compact Tri Basin NRD must keep water levels at 1981-1985 levels. Failure to do so would require Tri Basin NRD to take steps to stay in compliance. One of the options could include water allocations, which could stop seed corn production. Any drop in water levels also increases pumping costs.

This is a silent tax that increases pumping costs approximately .01253% per foot of decline. That doesn't seem like much but over 580 thousand acres at an average cost of \$60 per acre, it increases costs by \$252 thousand per year. Additionally, when they are in an allocated area, land typically drop by a \$1000 an acre or more. That puts an extra stress on funding local schools and local government.

Please don't let this happen. Contact your local Central board members; Dudley Nelson, Scott Olsen, Dave Nelson and Brent Soneson and have them take a stand for the citizens of our area and our future generation of family farms and vote no on this merger. This merger has no grassroots support. Why would you ever fundamentally change Central's time-tested system without the overwhelming support of the public?

Bradley Lundeen, Wilcox

Wilcox-Hildreth Second Semester Honor Roll

Principal's All A Honor Roll:

Students qualify by earning all A's in every subject area

Emma Donley
Sarah Jensen
Claire Ortgiesen
Abby Tarr
Brook Casper
Cara Bungler

Katelyn Bungler
Madison Bungler
Spencer Jezbera
Micah Johnson
Brody Patterson
Jacob Jezbera
Landon Lienemann
Luke Lush
Kaden Schriener
Baylee Wilfahrt

All A Honor Roll:

Students qualify by earning an "A" (93) average or above in all subjects and no grade is lower than an 86

Emma Sisk
Haylee Hueftle
Makayla Johnson
Keya Knaus

Isabelle Alloway
Mason Johnson
Reagan Johnson
Gavin Patterson
Dinah Culp
Thomas Donley
Cheyenne Lieb
Aubree Overholser
Parker Woollen
Chloe Johnson
Grayson Johnson
Keegan Petrick
Drew Blank
Camryn Bungler
Alexander Klatt-Terabelian
Sutton Strong

Weather Recap

Date	High	Low	Precip.
6/3/23	78	59	.25
6/4/23	82	59	.12
6/5/23	82	60	-
6/6/23	84	60	-
6/7/23	87	62	-
6/8/23	91	62	T
6/9/23	87	62	.55

Courier Weekly Deadlines:

Courier Designed Ads need to be requested by the customer by Thursday at 5:00 pm.
Client supplied or pre-designed ads are due on Friday at 4:00 pm.
Community supplied content needs approved by Friday at 4:00 pm.

Legals are DUE on Friday at noon.