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out,” he said. “This country (in the southeast region) is different. You don’t have bodies of water every half-mile like northeast South Dakota. But there are the same complaints (about wildlife), even if it is different country.”

Bappe has spent this month making the transition to his new position.

“Right now, I am getting to know people, getting my office set up and getting my equipment ready,” he said. “I want to hit the ground running, so I know the district.”

As part of his schedule, Bappe attended last week’s meeting of GF&P wildlife officials in Yankton. “People came from statewide, so it was a good opportunity to meet employees that I had never met before,” he said.

Bappe’s move to the southeast area represents an important commitment by the GF&P, said Region 3 wildlife manager Ron Schauer. The GF&P has added three wildlife damage specialists across the state, and Bappe was transferred to a new post in the southeast region.

“As far as the distribution of wildlife damage specialists, we were kind of loaded and heavy in Sioux Falls,” Schauer said. “Now, we have one in Huron and one in Mitchell, along with the ones in Sioux Falls. This is a much better distribution of people.”

By locating Bappe in Mitchell, the western part of the region should see dramatic changes, Schauer said.

“Blake takes away a lot of pressure. With someone in Mitchell, we will have quicker response times. That makes for better service for the public,” Schauer said. “We don’t have to travel as far or take as long to get there. It also allows us to keep costs down, as we pay (mileage) for operating a vehicle.”

With another GF&P face closer to the public, Schauer foresees greater public usage of wildlife damage specialists.

“This better serves farmers, ranchers and sportsmen. The local guy is more apt to call,” he said. “This will also lighten the load (for our staff), and they will be better able to serve producers.”

Bappe may have spent the past four years in the northeast region, but he’s no stranger to the southeast corner of the state.

“I lived in Hartford since I was 5,” he said. “I also served two internships (out of the Sioux Falls office), one as a goose depredation intern and the other as a seasonal trapper position.”

Besides his work with Wildlife Damage Management (WDM), Bappe’s work out of the Mitchell office will include Animal Damage Control (ADC). He will deal with animals ranging from beaver and coyote to badger, mink and fox.

In his role, Bappe will also assist in the survey of pheasant broods and doe-fawn ratios.

With his arrival in the southeast, Bappe may find himself working with Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) or bluetongue, which has claimed a large number of deer.

“When it came to EHD, we were hit hard last year in five counties and lost a lot of deer,” Schauer said. “We were hit in Hutchinson, Yankton, Bon Homme, Clay and Union counties.”

In addition, a bobcat season was established last year for the first time east of the Missouri River. The season included Buffalo, Brule, Charles Mix, Bon Homme and Yankton counties.

State officials may decide to offer another bobcat season for the East River counties, Schauer said.

“The (Game, Fish and Parks) commission is looking at opening the (East River) season at the end of December or the first of January and running for three weeks,” he said.

Regardless of his duties and challenges, Bappe brings an outstanding background to his new job, Schauer said.

“Blake just has real good overall knowledge and an unbelievable amount of experience,” the regional manager said.

Bappe admits he already enjoys his time in the southeast region, tapping into his passion for trapping and enjoying the great outdoors.

“In college, I thought it would be the line of work that I would like to do for a career,” he said. “This is a dream job for me.”

Bappe can be reached by email at blake.bappe@state.sd.us.

You can follow Randy Dockendorf on Twitter at twitter.com/RDockendorf

Financial Stress May Hit Your Brain And Wallet

WASHINGTON (AP) — Being short on cash may make you a bit slower in the brain, a new study suggests.

People worrying about having enough money to pay their bills tend to lose temporarily the equivalent of 13 IQ points, scientists found when they gave intelligence tests to shoppers at a New Jersey mall and farmers in India.

The idea is that financial stress monopolizes thinking, making other calculations slower and more difficult, sort of like the effects of going without sleep for a night.

And this money-and-brain crunch applies, albeit to a smaller degree, to about 100 million Americans who face financial squeezes, say the team of economists and psychologists who wrote the study published in Friday’s issue of the journal Science.

“Our paper isn’t about poverty. It’s about people struggling to make ends meet,” said Sendhil Mullainathan, a Harvard economist and study co-author. “When we think about people who are financially stressed, we think they are short on money, but the truth is they are also short on cognitive capacity.”

If you are always thinking about overdue bills, a mortgage or rent, or college loans, it takes away from your focus on other things. So being late on loans could end up costing you both interest points and IQ points, Mullainathan said.

The study used tests that studied various aspects of thinking including a traditional IQ test, getting the 13 IQ point drop, said study co-author Jiaying Zhao, a professor of psychology and sustainability at the University of British Columbia.

The scientists looked at the effects of finances on

the brain both in the lab and in the field. In controlled lab-like conditions, they had about 400 shoppers at Quaker Bridge Mall in central New Jersey consider certain financial scenarios and tested their brain power. Then they looked at real life in the fields of India, where farmers only get paid once a year. Before the harvest, they take out loans and pawn goods. After they sell their harvest, they are flush with cash.

Mullainathan and colleagues tested the same 464 farmers before and after the harvest and their IQ scores improved by 25 percent when their wallets fattened.

“It’s a very powerful effect,” said study co-author Eldar Shafir, a Princeton University psychology professor. “When you are dealing with budgetary finances, it does intrude on your thinking. It’s at the top of your mind.”

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