



PHOTO COURTESY CHAD COPPES/SD TOURISM DEPT
A bobcat resides in Badlands National Park of western South Dakota. The bobcat's presence has grown in the eastern part of the state, leading to the start of a bobcat hunting season — beginning Saturday — for Yankton, Bon Homme, Charles Mix, Brule and Buffalo counties.

Hunters On The Prowl

First Bobcat Hunting Season Opens Saturday In East River

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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The first bobcat season ever allowed east of the Missouri River in South Dakota will begin Saturday, open only in Yankton, Bon Homme, Charles Mix, Brule and Buffalo counties.

The initial East River season runs Dec. 8-30.

Hunters and trappers need to realize several new requirements and opportunities with the new season, said Game, Fish and Parks (GF&P) conservation officer Sam Schelhaas of Yankton County.

"You must have a fur-bearer license regardless of whether you trap or shoot (the bobcats)," he said. "I also want to stress there is one bobcat allowed per hunter or trapper. Once you get one cat, you're done."

All hunters and trappers who take bobcats during the season are required to remove the pelts from the carcasses and surrender the entire carcasses within five days of harvest to GF&P personnel for registration and tagging, Schelhaas said.

Once the season is closed, an individual has 24 hours to notify GF&P personnel of any untagged bobcats harvested during the season.

"At that point, you only have the 24 hours, not the five days, to produce the bobcat," he said.

No person may possess, purchase or sell raw bobcat pelts that are not legally tagged.

The East River bobcat population has reached the point where it can sustain a limited harvest, Schelhaas said.

"The cats especially like what I call the Missouri River break areas," he said. "They like the bluffs and the hills along the Missouri River, particularly Charles Mix, Bon Homme

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Making The Right Decisions

Local Leaders Help Students Through Ethics Program

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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If a woman is upset that she can't work overtime and posts on Facebook that her boss is a "complete tool," should she be fired?

Sophomores at Yankton High School were asked to think about that scenario and many others Wednesday as part of Junior Achievement's (JA) "Excelling Through Ethics" program. It aims to teach students that ethical behavior is necessary in all areas of their lives. More than 350 business and community leaders in South Dakota will visit with some 6,500 high school students this year as part of the ethics program.

Speaking to one classroom, Mount Marty College president Dr. Joseph Benoit informed the students that this woman had been fired for her decision.

It was just one example of how technology allows people to share information with the world more widely and quickly than at any time in the past. In the heat of an emotional moment, it's easy to make a mistake with long-lasting consequences.

"One of the things we tell our students at the college all the time is, 'Make good choices,'" Benoit said. "Other people can't make choices for you. You have to make your own good choices."

It was Benoit's first time as a volunteer for the ethics program since joining Mount Marty College in 2011.

He was among more than a dozen volunteers who visited with sophomores for about an hour Wednesday morning.

Asking students to think about someone they look up to, Benoit had them describe the characteristics associated with those individuals.



NATHAN JOHNSON/P&D

Mount Marty College president Dr. Joseph Benoit was one of more than a dozen local leaders who spoke to Yankton sophomores about ethics Wednesday as part of a Junior Achievement program.

The responses included trustworthy, respectful, brave, hard-working, a leader, kind, caring and dependable.

Benoit told the students they are already role models, even if they don't see themselves that way.

"As sophomores, there are fifth and sixth graders in town who think you are really cool," he stated. "If you do something, they might think, 'Wow, if that sophomore can do it, then I can do it.' If you make a bad choice, you may be setting an example for someone else that it's OK to make a bad choice."

Yankton High School student Patrick

Binder said he found the program thought-provoking.

"I need to think about others more than myself," he said. "I need to think about the betterment of others more than the betterment of me."

Benoit said that was exactly the kind of thing he hoped to get students considering as they left the classroom.

"These types of activities are great when we're working with children at an age where they are really starting to realize what the consequences are," he stated. "Students make decisions every single day. I've never been in a class-

room where we haven't had students make good and bad decisions."

This is the fifth year that Yankton's JA chapter has offered "Excelling Through Ethics," according to Deb Specht, the local board chairman. JA aims to inspire and prepare young people to succeed in the global economy.

"Discussing ethics and the ramifications of making poor choices has never been more important," she said. "Unfortunately, we hear of many unethical sto-

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U.S. Senator Johnson Opens Possibility He Won't Run

BY CHET BROKAW
Associated Press

PIERRE — U.S. Sen. Tim Johnson of South Dakota on Wednesday left open the possibility he will not seek re-election in 2014.

After former Republican Gov. Mike Rounds said last week he would run for the seat now held by Johnson, the Democrat responded with a statement saying "I fully intend to put together a winning campaign in the weeks and months ahead."

But in a telephone press conference with South Dakota reporters on Wednesday, Johnson said his earlier statement should have been more clear about the prospects he will seek a fourth term.

"If I run again, I will run a strong campaign is what I meant. But only if I run again, and it's far too soon to make that statement," Johnson said.

The 65-year-old senator said he will announce sometime next year whether he will run.

Johnson's health problems have led to speculation he might not seek re-election. He had surgery in 2006 for bleeding in his brain, which has slowed his speech and required him to sometimes use a motorized scooter when he needs to get around quickly.

The senator said he is capable of enduring the rigors of a campaign and his health will not play a role in whether he seeks re-election.

"I'm good to go. I feel great," Johnson said.

Johnson said he proved he is healthy enough to campaign when he won re-election in 2008, two years after the surgery to stop bleeding



Johnson

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Close Call For Yankton Pet Owner Serves As Warning To Others

BY DEREK BARTOS
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A few weeks ago, Diana Steppat of Yankton was playing with her dog, Mitzy, when the dog attempted to jump onto a chair, missed and fell to the floor on her back.

As time went on, the 2-year-old Yorkie miniature poodle became paralyzed in her hind legs and tail, and Steppat found herself in a situation that many pet owners fear — her pet needed emergency veterinary care, and she wasn't sure what to do.

With her regular veterinarian out of town, Steppat called various clinics in the area, but could not find anyone who would take in her dog that day. She also was unable to obtain a referral to someone who could help.

"I said, 'This is life and death. The dog is paralyzed in the back end,'" Steppat said. "I was so furious I could have screamed."

She eventually reached her regular veterinarian, Dr. Nancy Saunders of For Pets' Sake in Yankton, who referred her to a specialist in Norfolk (Neb.). Mitzy was treated for a herniated disc and is now doing well in recovery. Had another 24 hours passed, the dog would have been permanently paralyzed, Steppat said.

Saunders said that while situations like Steppat's can be frustrating, it is common for veterinarians to refuse emergency care to people who



COURTESY PHOTO

Two-year-old Yorkie miniature poodle Mitzy recently needed emergency care while her regular veterinarian was out of town. The situation is one many pet owners can face, especially during the holidays.

are not regular clients.

"I see a lot of people make the mistake of not having a vet at all and not getting their dogs and cats spayed or vaccinated, and then when they have an emergency, no one wants to see them," she said. "Personally, I don't blame them because then they're dealing with all sorts of problems on top of the urgent problem."

Saunders said this is why it is essential to es-

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Feds In New Jersey Arrest Former USD Student Who Sparked Bomb Scare

BY DAVID LIAS
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VERMILLION — A former University of South Dakota student from Essex County, N.J., was arrested Wednesday morning on charges related to a January 2012 bomb scare in Coyote Village, a student housing complex on the USD campus.

Anthony Nicholas Gallo, 20, has been charged with transportation of explosive materials without a license or permit issued by the U.S. attorney general. He was scheduled to appear Wednesday afternoon before U.S. Magistrate Judge Mark Falk in Newark, N.J., federal court.

The Associated Press reported Wednesday that during Gallo's first appearance in a Newark federal courtroom that afternoon, attorney Steven Martino said Gallo did not pose a danger to anyone and questioned why, if he had posed a serious threat, federal authorities waited 10 months to arrest him.

"Anthony is a good kid, and we'll show what they (the government) are portraying him as is not what he is," Martino said.

Joyce Malliet, an assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of New Jersey, argued for keeping Gallo in custody, saying he was seemingly obsessed with building and detonating explosives and had bragged in graphic detail on Facebook about his alleged exploits.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Mark Falk said he didn't have enough information on the case to make a decision, and ordered Gallo to remain in federal custody until a custody hearing could be held Friday.

Gallo, handcuffed and smiling at his parents in court, didn't speak other than to acknowledge to the judge that he understood his rights.

Currently a student at Bergen County Community College, Gallo had been enrolled at the University of South Dakota from the fall of 2011 until his withdrawal on Jan. 17, according to USD spokesman Phillip Carter.

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