outdoors

Press&Dakotan

How To Get Started Ice Fishing

Briefs: Officials OF THE OUTDOORS | GARY HOWEY Investigating Wolf Killing In Western SD

CUSTER (AP) — Federal wildlife officials are investigating the killing of a wolf near Custer, in western Šouth Dakota's Black Hills.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service special agent Brad Merrill tells the Rapid City Journal that samples have been sent to a laboratory in Washington state to determine if the animal is "pure

The gray wolf is on the state list of rare, threatened or endangered species, and sightings are rare. John Kanta with the state Game, Fish and Parks Department says the last confirmed wolf in western South Dakota was hit by a vehicle in March 2006.

Officials have not released details of the recent wolf killing.

S.D. Diversity Small Grant Proposals Being Accepted

is accepting proposals for its Small Grants Pro-

searchers, educators and naturalists for native wildlife projects. Funding for the 2012 Small Grants Program totals \$35,000 for projects that focus on research related to native wildlife species and their habitats.

education, research, and monitoring projects since 1997. A wide range of projects have been completed, ranging from the creation of a field guide on the Tiger Beetles of South Dakota to evaluating the nesting ecology of raptors in the Black Hills

pool of talent and expertise outside of the department that can be very beneficial to the mission of the Wildlife Division. By making small grants available, the Wildlife Diversity Program is able to use those talents and expertise. The diverse projects completed in the last 15 years have resulted in numerous publications in scientific journals, popular educational products and a tremendous amount of new information on na-

tive wildlife species and their habitats. Grant proposals are due by Feb.15, 2012. For more information, contact the Wildlife Diversity Program at 605-773-4345 or via email. Additional information and grant application forms can be found at www.gfp.sd.gov.

Neb. G&P Releases Trapped Mountain Lion

LINCOLN, Neb. — A mountain lion unintentionally caught in a foothold trap in Dawes County was tranquilized and released by the Nebraska

Game and Parks Commission on Jan. 27. The mountain lion, a female kitten weighing approximately 50 pounds, appeared to be in good health. After the release, the kitten followed tracks of an adult mountain lion and another kitten that biologists believe were the mother and a

The trap had been legally set and the trapper called Game and Parks immediately upon discovering the mountain lion, as required by Game and Parks policy. High pelt prices for bobcats and an increased effort to trap them may have contributed to the recent incidental captures of mountain lions in Dawes County, according to Sam Wilson, Game and Parks' carnivore program manager.

Wilson said. "In situations like this, where a mountain lion has not entered a town or come into conflict with people, we may attempt to release it if it can be done safely and the mountain lion is not injured." Game and Parks requests fur harvesters immediately contact the agency if a mountain lion incidentally is trapped. Anyone with trail-camera photographs or other evidence of mountain lions should contact the agency at 402-471-0641.

they don't clean the shaved ice out of the hole, so you'll need to stop auguring from time to time to remove the chips from the hole. Where the spoon excels is in opening up old holes that someone else had previously dug. Spoons will open up an never tried it before, as the equipment is a old hole a lot easier than other hand augers

A sharp hand auger will cut through ice quickly as long as you don't have to cut through ice overly thick! You'll need to be in fairly good shape if you're going to punch many holes through thicker ice. It takes downward pressure in order to get the auger to work its way through the ice and with all the heavy clothing you'll be wearing it doesn't take long to wear yourself out when using any style of hand auger.

If you plan on digging a lot of holes, the power auger is the way to go. They gener-ally run about \$300-\$500, but are well worth it if you plan on spending much time on the ice.

Feldmann Engineering, the manufacturers of the Jiffy Ice auger were the first to manufacture a power ice auger. I've used them for years as they start easily and cut fast allowing me to cut as many holes as I want or need without becoming exhausted.

You'll also need some type of scoop to get the slush out of your hole. The most popular are the plastic or metal scoops. I prefer the metal ones because the slush you pull from the hole has a tendency to freeze in the scoop and with a metal scoop I can hit against my boots or the ice to remove the ice. With the plastic scoops you can clear them only once as cold plastic shatters easily.

Locating the fish is made much easier with the use of some type of locator. The locator you used during the summer on your boat will work if you make it portable and get a gel cell battery to power it.

I use the Vexilar flashers FL-18 and FL-20 when I'm on the ice. They're a great unit, allowing me to see my bait, the fish



SUBMITTED PHOTO Lakes in Northeastern South Dakota are producing good size perch and walleyes. Cory Ewing of Waubay Lakes Guide Service is pictured with one of the big perch taken on a recent trip to Bitter Lake.

and the bottom As I mentioned in earlier columns, their new Double Vision is an all in one unit with a locator over the top of the monitor for the underwater camera. It's a great unit with great clarity allowing me see everything that's down there.

Getting your gear out onto the ice can be a chore if you have to walk in.

There are numerous sleds available that will not only get your gear out onto the ice; they also allow an angler to fish in comfort. Clam, Frabill and Otter all make excellent ice fishing sleds and shelters that are made to carry your gear out onto the ice and once you're at the spot you plan to fish, they convert to a comfortable ice shelter allowing the angler to get in out of the weather.

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Rods made for ice fishing are shorter, with most being a lighter action rod than those used during the regular season.

Reels are also much smaller as most of the time, you won't need a reel with a lot of line capacity for ice fishing.

The line you'll want to use will need to be a light limp line because cold weather will make the line stiffen up and the heavier the line, the stiffer it will get.

I use a 4 or 6-pound Berkley XL on my reels and adjust my drag so that it doesn't take much for it to release.

Like the rods and reels, the tackle that you'll use ice fishing will be small. Ice Bugs, Toads, Shadlings Jigging Raps and Cast Masters along with size 6 or 8 hooks, a small split shot and petite bobbers will take most species of fish during the win-

For bait, on perch, crappies and other panfish I use wax worms or minnows.

For walleye you'll want to use minnows, minnow heads or wax worms. You'll find that Wax worms, Eurolarva,

Berkley Power or Gulp Naturals will all work well on all species of panfish.

Ice fishing is a great way for those shore fishermen that didn't have a boat to get out on the ice to fish those better spots.

With the new lighter and warmer clothing available, ice fishing has become a very popular sport and a great way for you to spend a winter day with friends and family.

Give hard water fishing a try, it's a great way to beat cabin fever.

Gary Howey, Hartington, Neb., is the President of Outdoorsmen Productions LLC, the Producer/Host of Outdoorsmen Adventures television and the Co-Host of Outdoor Adventures radio. For more information on the outdoors, check out www.outdoorsmenadventures.com.

K-State Freshman Learns Lessons Riding Bench

MANHATTAN, Kan. (AP) - No one had ever benched Thomas Gipson.

Everyone knew the 6-foot-7, 275pound post player was the biggest, strongest kid on the court. Gipson knew it, too.

So it shocked him during his senior year of high school when first-year Cedar Hill coach Tim Thomas sat the future Kansas State forward on the bench as his team faced top-seeded Flower Mound Marcus in front of college coaches and ESPN reporters as part of a major tournament.

Originally sidelined for three straight turnovers and left to languish there after talking back to the coach, Gipson was in for an even bigger surprise. After his attitude didn't improve in practice, he was still on the bench when his team came out for the third-place game.

"Before that, I wasn't listening to him," Gipson said. "I wasn't pay-ing attention. I was lackadaisical. I wasn't going hard. And then when he finally sat me out, I realized that he was serious, and if I don't get with the program then I'm not going to play."

In many ways, that approach prepared Gipson for another exacting coach: Frank Martin.

"It was tough because Coach Thomas is more of a defensive coach, and I was progressing to become a defensive player," Gipson said. "I was more of an offensive player. I had to be on help side, I had to be in better condition in order to play for Coach Thomas."

When the big man thought he was giving his all, Thomas wanted more.

ROPHY SPOT GH



LEFT: Dave Fender caught these two Walleye, weighing six and nine ponds, on Jan. 22 at the Gavins Point Dam tailwaters. (Captain Norm's)

BY GARY HOWEY

Learning how to ice fish can seem like

If there's less than two inches or less

support a group of peo-

ple walking in a single

file while five and a half

to six inches are the

minimum needed be-

fore I'd attempt to go

mobile or ATV. If you

on the ice with a snow-

don't have at least eight

to twelve inches leave

your car on the shore

and walk out. Safe ice in

order to drive a pickup

or truck on should be a

inches being even bet-

minimum of twelve

inches with fifteen

Gear that you'd use for ice fishing isn't

much different from the equipment you'd

use during the regular fishing season, just

something to cut a hole through the ice.

When I first started ice fishing, we

with a sharpened chisel. The down side to

a spud bar is that they're a man killer and

and worn out, you don't have the strength

Hand augers work well and will do a

great job as long as they're sharp. There

are a couple of styles of hand augers, the

If you're using as spoon, it will take you

spoon and the standard hand auger.

longer to bore through the ice because

made due with a steel bar or spud bar

by the time you've hacked your way

through much ice, you're so heated up

The first thing you're going to need is

a major undertaking for someone who's

on the ground, don't even think about

heading out. If there's four inches it can

lot smaller and more compact.

Hartington, Neb.

Gary HOWEY

ter.

smaller.

to go fishing.

PIERRE — The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks Wildlife Diversity Program The program provides funding to re-

Wildlife Diversity Small Grants have funded

GFP recognizes that there is a tremendous

Custer State Park To Host Snowshoe Hike

CUSTER STATE PARK - On Feb. 11, visitors to Custer State Park will have the opportunity to experience the winter sights and sounds of the popular park, by way of a pair of snowshoes

The Lover's Leap Snowshoe Hike will guide participants through a dense pine forest, meandering near Grace Coolidge Creek. The threemile hike is geared toward beginners, allowing participants the opportunity to try the recreational event and explore some of the park's most beautiful winter scenery.

Two hikes will depart that day, leaving at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. from the Peter Norbeck Visitor Center. Snowshoes are provided, but reservations are required to borrow snowshoes by calling 605-255-4464.

There is no cost for the hikes; however, a park entrance license is required. If the amount of snow does not allow for snowshoeing, a guided hike will be held.

Participants should dress appropriately for the weather, as temperatures in the Black Hills can be unpredictable. Any footwear can be used with snowshoes; however, waterproof hiking boots are recommended.

Custer will host another snowshoe hike on March 3, at 1 p.m. in the Sylvan Lake Area. Reservations for that hike can be made by calling 605-255-4464.

ND Midwinter Survey Shows Record Waterfowl

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) - A mild, dry fall and an unseasonably warm winter have resulted in a record number of ducks and geese wintering in North Dakota.

The state Game and Fish Department estimated 279,000 birds during its annual midwinter waterfowl survey conducted in January. The previous record was 237,000 birds in 2008, said Mike Szymanski, a migratory game bird biologist with the agency. This year's count includes a record 190,000 geese and a record 88,000 mallard ducks.

"This year's survey was highly abnormal, and numbers of waterfowl within the state were probably underestimated because of the open water and lack of snow statewide." Szvmanski said. "The lack of snow cover was especially important in keeping these birds around.

The latest crop, livestock and weather report from the Agriculture Department shows that there was less than 2 inches of snow on the ground on average in North Dakota at the end of January, compared with more than 2 feet last year at the same time. Average temperatures around the state were as much as 15 degrees above normal, and numerous high-temperature records fell during the month.

"I was like, 'All right, so I guess he doesn't want to win this game," Gipson recalled.

Cedar Hill won 58-57, and Gipson realized that his team would be fine without him.

In a moment of personal growth. Gipson stood before his teammates and apologized, telling them he would step it up and become a leader. From then on, he averaged close to 20 points and 10 rebounds, and Cedar Hill went on to win the district championship. Gipson was never late to practice, and he made sure no one else was, either. He organized open gyms and saw to it that everyone attended. He did better academi-

cally. More or less, he did a 180, and the result was a scholarship offer from Kansas State.

"He became our leader, and I saw that change," Thomas said. "Sometimes guys are leaders inherently, just because you have the most experience and maybe you're the better player, and the other kids look up to you for that. He had that, but he became the leader."

Gipson said that Thomas demanded more than any coach he'd ever encountered, and it took time on the bench to understand that Gipson would have to meet those demands if he wanted to play.

605-665-6181

"I challenged him to get more rebounds, get to the opposite side when the ball is shot and get more offensive rebounds," Thomas said, "and he had to get there, and if he didn't get there during the ball games, then during practice he had to run.

Martin has also challenged Gipson to get on the boards more though earlier this season, the bigger issue was finding someone to challenge him physically.

The one who makes him work hardest is senior Jamar Samuels.

"Jamar goes at him every once and a while, and that kind of keeps him zoned in on what he needs to do," Martin said. "Some guys can kind of jog around and make the game look easy. Other guys can't play that way. That doesn't mean that you're not gifted. It means you have to play with a certain aggression.

Gipson harnessed that assertiveness early on. He scored more than 10 points in five of the first seven games and grabbed at least 10 rebounds in three of them. His high point came in a game against North Florida, when he had 23 points and 12 rebounds.

He began to struggle once the conference schedule started, and Gipson believes a lot of it had to do with losing his confidence. But he's



Bucks

From Page 7

In the loss, Yankton out-rebounded the Lynx 25-19 and was nearly perfect (11-of-12) at the charity stripe. Seitzinger led Yankton with 15 points and five assists, while Youngberg added 10 points.

Despite not reaching the 60point mark again this season, the Bucks had at least two players in double figures for the second

consecutive game - after not reaching that feat before last Friday.

As tough as the loss is to take, Yankton can't let it linger for long. A road game with Mitchell looms next Tuesday.

"We can't feel too bad, because we've got Mitchell waiting for us," Gross said. "It'll be a battle there, no doubt."

Make no mistake, the Bucks are ready, Fitzsimmons said.

"It's nice to move on, especially against one of the best teams in the state." he said. "Knocking them off; that'd be a fun thing to do.'

In sub-varsity action, Yankton won the JV contest 63-56 behind four players in double figures. Michael Rucker led with 15 points, while Kellen Soulek had a double-double with 10 points and 11 rebounds.

BRANDON VALLEY (5-10) Dylan Rock 4-10 0-0 10; Kyle Peterson 1-2 0-1 2; Ben Schultz 9-17 6-6 27; Jacob Adams 5-8 4-6 14; Brock Wickett 2-4 0-0 4; Adam Bauer 0-0 0-0 0; Trevor Crow 0-0 0-0 0; Nate Winter 0-0 0-0 0; Jacob Bruget 0-0 0-0 0. TOTALS 21-41 10-13 57.

YANKTON (2-12) J.J. Hejna 2-4 0-0 4; Connor Vlasman 2-5 0-0 4; Connor Fitzsimmons 4-8 0-0 12; Bryan Youngberg 3-7 3-3 10; Jackson Seitzinger 5-11 4-4 15; Michael Rucker 0-1 4-4 4; Kellen Soulek 2-2 0-0 4; Troy Hunhoff 1-2 0-1 2. TOTALS 19-40 11-12 55.

YANKTON 9 18 31 55 Three-Pointers: YHS 6-12 (Fitzsimmons 4-5, Youngberg 1-2, Seitzinger 1-5), BV 5-10 (Schultz 3-4, Rock 2-4, Wickett 0-2). Total Rebounds; YHS 25 (Hejna 5, Vlasman 5), BV 19 (Adams 7). Turnovers: YHS 14, BV 10. Personal Fouls: YHS 13, BV 12. Fouled Out: None.

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