

N.D. Official
Uses Shotgun
To Free Locked
Antlers On Deer

BY BRAD DOKKEN
(c) 2012 the Grand Forks Herald (Grand Forks, N.D.)

GRAND FORKS, N.D. — It would be safe to say that Jeremy Woinarowicz's workday got off to a more eventful start than most that recent Wednesday morning between Christmas and New Year's.

Conservation officer for the Department of Natural Resources in Warren, Minn., Woinarowicz was responding to a call he'd received late the previous afternoon of two bucks locked at the antlers southeast of Warren in Polk County.

It was nearly dark by the time he'd gotten the message Dec. 27, but finding the two deer the next morning didn't take very long. As Woinarowicz approached, he could see the larger buck was dead; had been for quite some time, by the looks of it.

"I definitely would have called the dead one a trophy," he said of the eight-point buck.

For Woinarowicz, freeing the live buck from the dead buck presented a dilemma. There weren't any neighboring officers or other DNR personnel in the vicinity, and large angry bucks generally don't appreciate human intervention.

This deer was no exception. "The buck still alive was definitely lively, and when I approached, it frantically tried to free itself," Woinarowicz said. "When I got closer, he tried to come at me."

With limited options, Woinarowicz remembered the story he'd heard about another conservation officer who used a handgun to shoot the tines off two bucks locked by their racks.

Woinarowicz decided it was worth a shot.

"I shot multiple tines off each of the bucks with my handgun, but even with the tines flying off, they were not able to break apart," he said.

More firepower was needed, so Woinarowicz walked back to his truck for the shotgun he carries while on patrol.

One slug to the dead buck's main beam later and the antlers were free.

"The live buck bounded into the woods," Woinarowicz said. "I'm fairly confident it will survive."

Woinarowicz said he walked within five feet of the bucks, which was as close as he dared to approach, during the rescue. He said he'll remember the living buck's eyes the most.

"He snorted, and his eyes were just flared wide open," Woinarowicz said. "I was just there to help him, but he didn't know that. He was so angry."

Woinarowicz figures the buck had been dragging its dead opponent for several days. Even so, the living buck had some strength.

"When I pulled up to it, it could still pull the dead buck," Woinarowicz said. "Not at a decent pace. It pulled the buck about 30 yards and then decided it was going to stay and fight."

Woinarowicz said the prospect of the live buck charging after being freed definitely crossed his mind, so watching it bound away was a relief.

He figures the whole encounter probably lasted half an hour.

"Trying to figure out what to do first probably took the longest," he said. "I wanted to get him free as soon as possible."

Woinarowicz, who kept the head of the dead deer, said he hears occasional reports of bucks that become locked at the antlers while jousting for a mate, but this was the first time he'd witnessed the spectacle.

"It happens more often than we would actually think," Woinarowicz said.

One thing's for sure: Start the morning by staring into the eyes of a raging buck, and it's going to be all downhill the rest of the day.

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OF THE OUTDOORS | GARY HOWEY

What To Do Between Seasons

BY GARY HOWEY

Hartington, Neb.

This is the time of the year that's known as that in-between season. Most hunting is winding down with the weather not being cold enough to build what I'd call really good ice in South Dakota or Nebraska.

Cold weather may have started out early and because of the unseasonably warm temperatures hasn't done a thing to make safe ice conditions.

During this time of the year there are several ice-fishing tournaments in Nebraska and South Dakota scheduled, but they too are being postponed or cancelled because of concerns about the ice.

If you're going to do any ice fishing right now, you'll have to head north to find a location where there's safe ice.

The ice fishing in northeastern South Dakota has been good on several of the lakes in the area, with nice perch, crappies and walleyes being caught on many of the lakes and sloughs.

If you're going to fish the lakes in that area, you'll still have to exercise caution, as the ice is really thin for this time of the year.

On an average year, you'd find good ice in northeastern South Dakota, but this year, the reports are coming in that in



PHOTO: LARRY MYHRE

Ice fishing this season has been non-existing in some areas while other areas such as the Webster/Waubay area have some good ice. Cory Ewing (left) of Webster and Waubay Lakes Guide Service, and Gary Howey are pictured with these perch they caught on Bitter near Waubay during a recent outing.

some areas there's still a lot of open water. In an average January, you'd see pickups all over the ice, but not this year, as reports are indicating that travel on the ice should only be done on foot, snowmobile or ATV.

If you have to drive on ice be cautious, as ice thickness may vary greatly from one area to another.

If you have to drive on the ice, you'll want to make sure that you have good solid ice before driving out onto it.

I like to have at least fifteen inches of good ice before I venture out onto it with my vehicle.



Gary HOWEY

Briefs: Neb. Sets Meetings
For Waterfowl Zone Changes

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission has scheduled meetings across the state to discuss potential changes in waterfowl zones.

The commission says the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service last year changed some criteria for duck zones.

Mark Vrtiska is the Game and Parks waterfowl program manager. He says the meetings will let duck hunters know about the advantages and disadvantages of the new zoning as well as determine any new zone boundary.

The first meeting will be held Monday in Columbus, followed on Tuesday by a meeting in Omaha, Wednesday in Lincoln, Thursday in Ponca, Jan. 16 in Valentine, Jan. 17 in Kearney, Jan. 23 in McCook, Jan. 24 in Gering, Jan. 25 in Ogallala and Jan. 30 in North Platte.

Zebra Mussels, Carp Nothing But Trouble

BY RAY SASSER

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DALLAS — The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is asking for public feedback on proposed regulations aimed at stopping the spread of zebra mussels, silver carp and bighead carp.

Popular North Texas waters are included in the problem areas. Zebra mussels, in particular, have been well publicized. The small mollusks are thriving at Texoma, probably brought in attached to a boat moved to Texas from the Midwest. They reproduce at an exponential rate.

Bighead and silver carp are Asian exotics that feed on plankton. They are potential competition for important fishes like threadfin shad and gizzard shad. It is already illegal to possess or transport zebra mussels, silver carp or bighead carp.

However, according to the news release, "TPWD biologists believe additional regulations are needed to prevent the accidental or inci-

dental movement of these species from one water body to another."

The problem with small carp is that they blend into a crowd of native bait fish. A live bait fan might inadvertently catch two or three small carp with a cast net full of similar-sized shad and never notice the invasive fish.

The carp proposal would prohibit persons from leaving specified water bodies in the possession of live, nongame fish (this would primarily be fish used for bait). Collection and use of nongame fishes for bait on those water bodies would still be legal.

The zebra mussel proposal is intended to prevent the spread of the microscopic larval stage of zebra mussels, known as veligers, which might be in the lake water transported aboard the boat.

The proposal states: "To prevent the accidental transport of zebra mussel veligers to other water bodies, any person leaving the specified water bodies would be required to drain or empty all water from bait buckets, live wells,

bilges and any other water intake systems or containers before the use of a public roadway.

"If a person follows these procedures, they would be deemed to be in compliance with the rules against possession of prohibited species that are not visible to the unaided eye.

"A person traveling on a public roadway via the most direct route to another access point located on the same body of water would not be required to drain or empty water."

When I asked a law enforcement spokesman in Austin if game wardens even have the authority to stop a vehicle towing a boat on a public road, I got this response:

"Game wardens do not have inspection authority on a public roadway, unless they have an articulable reasonable suspicion that an offense is occurring or has occurred."

The offense in question, he wrote, would be a Class C misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of \$25 to \$500.

Girls

From Page 8

LCC's next opponent is Hartington on Tuesday and Creighton battles O'Neill on Saturday.

Platte-Geddes 60,
Tripp-Delmont-Armour 53

ARMOUR — The Platte-Geddes Black Panthers were able to withstand a late run from the Tripp-Delmont-Armour Nighthawks on Friday night.

TDA outscored Platte-Geddes 20-12 in the fourth quarter, but a 15-point deficit proved to be too much for the Nighthawks as they fell 60-53.

Josie DeGroot led the Black Panthers with 21 points, Kelly Knudson added 19 points, and Kelli Sprik had 10 points.

TDA was led by Julie Mingo with 23 points, Hannah Just had 12 points, and Kelli Batterman also ended with 12 points.

The Black Panthers won the JV affair 44-10.

Platte-Geddes will now play South Central in Platte on Tuesday. TDA will host Andes Central in Tripp on Monday.

| | | | | |
|----------------------------|----|----|----|----|
| PLATTE-GEDDES (5-6) | 15 | 38 | 48 | 60 |
| TRIPP-DELMONT-ARMOUR (2-8) | 12 | 22 | 33 | 53 |

Irene-Wakonda 75,
Bloomfield 53

WAKONDA — The Irene-Wakonda Eagles were able to outgun the Bloomfield Queen Bees 75-53 in the cross-border matchup held in Wakonda. The Eagles were led by Haley

Hinseth's 20 points and six rebounds. Kyleigh Melstad added 17 points, Caitlin Hinseth had 13 points and five rebounds, and Makayla Mohr had 10 points and five rebounds to lead Irene-Wakonda to the win.

The Queen Bees received 24 points and five rebounds from Autumn Luger. Ashley Fiedler added 10 points, and Becca Broders had eight points and seven rebounds.

Irene-Wakonda, now 4-6, will play at Scotland on Jan. 17. Bloomfield, now 3-9, will play at Osmond, also on Jan. 17.

Scotland 56,
Andes Central 27

SCOTLAND — Aisha Abbinik's 21 points and five rebounds led the Scotland Lady Highlanders to a big 56-27 win over the Andes Central Eagles.

Carley Skorepa had nine points and seven rebounds, and Kennedy Asche ended the night with nine points and 11 rebounds for the Lady Highlanders.

Andes Central was led by Kellie Winckler with 18 points, eight rebounds, and four blocked shots.

Scotland also won the junior varsity matchup, 47-11.

Scotland will now play Corsica-Stickney today at the Mitchell Corn Palace. Andes Central will play Tripp-Delmont-Armour on Jan. 16 in Tripp.

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|---------------------|----|----|----|----|
| ANDES CENTRAL (3-6) | 2 | 10 | 18 | 27 |
| SCOTLAND (6-3) | 16 | 33 | 48 | 56 |

Crofton 64,
Neligh-Oakdale 29

NELIGH, Neb. — Bridget Arens posted a double-double to

lead the Crofton Lady Warriors past Neligh-Oakdale 64-29 on Friday night.

Arens recorded 19 points and 10 rebounds, while Maria Wortmann had 13 points and eight rebounds in the win.

Tiffany Tramp and Allison Arens each added nine points for Crofton (10-2), which held the Warriors to one point in the third quarter.

Joselyn Lemm and Emily Anderson each scored eight points in the loss.

Crofton hosts Lutheran High Northeast today (Saturday), while Neligh-Oakdale, 2-10, hosts Clearwater-Orchard next Tuesday.

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|-----------------------|----|----|----|----|
| CROFTON (10-2) | 14 | 38 | 47 | 64 |
| NELIGH-OAKDALE (2-10) | 2 | 13 | 14 | 29 |

Dakota Christian 52,
Freeman Academy 29

CORSICA — Three players in double figures for Dakota Christian guided the Lady Cadets to victory over the Freeman Academy Bobcats in a Class B girls' basketball game on Friday.

For the Cadets, Sara De Waard led with 18 points, seven rebounds, and six steals. Brooklyn Vander Pol ended the night with 13 points and six assists while Laurel Zomer scored 17.

Jaime Tschetter scored 18 points and grabbed seven rebounds for the Bobcats.

The next opponent for Dakota Christian is Plankinton on Monday and Freeman Academy will face Centerville also on Monday.

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|------------------------|----|----|----|----|
| DAKOTA CHRISTIAN (3-6) | 11 | 33 | 44 | 52 |
| FREEMAN ACADEMY (2-6) | 5 | 7 | 19 | 29 |

Watertown 58, Pierre 35

PIERRE — Current Watertown

Arrow and future USD Coyote Tia Hemiller exploded for 19 points, 10 rebounds, six steals, and five assists on the way to a 58-35 Watertown win over the Pierre Lady Governors.

Mandy Tetzlaff aided Hemiller in the game with 16 points for the Arrows.

Pierre was led by Taylor Hyde's nine points and Kate Severyn had six points and 13 rebounds.

Pierre will play at Brookings on Monday, and Watertown will host SF Washington on Tuesday.

| | | | | |
|----------------------|----|----|----|----|
| WATERTOWN (5-4, 4-4) | 16 | 30 | 39 | 58 |
| PIERRE (1-8, 1-5) | 8 | 19 | 25 | 35 |

Thursday's Late Games

Hanson 72, Parker 65

PARKER — Ashley Robinson's big night helped power Hanson past Parker 72-65 in girls' basketball action on Thursday. Robinson scored 26 points, including the 1,000th of her career and also grabbed eight rebounds for good measure.

Cassidy Graham scored 21 points to go along with four rebounds for the Beavers. Kendra Cheeseman added nine points, six rebounds, five steals and three assists.

Micalanne Hanten had 14 points and seven rebounds to pace Parker. Alycia Pesicka and Anna Leloux each added 12 points for the Pheasants.

Hanson, 7-3, plays Mitchell Christian at the Hanson Classic in the Corn Palace on Saturday.

Parker, 3-5, will host Sioux Valley on Saturday.

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|--------------|----|----|----|----|
| HANSON (7-3) | 21 | 40 | 52 | 72 |
| PARKER (3-5) | 10 | 43 | 53 | 65 |

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