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P&D's Cimburek Named S.D. Sportswriter Of The Year

From P&D Staff Reports

Press & Dakotan Sports Editor James Cimburek has been recognized by the National Sportscasters and Sportswriters Association as the South Dakota Sportswriter of the Year.



Cimburek

Cimburek, who has been with the Press & Dakotan since 1992 and who has served as Sports Editor since 1996, was previously named Sportswriter of the Year by the South Dakota High School Coaches Association in 2008. He has also been recognized with the Distinguished Service Award by the South Dakota High School Activities Association.

His resume includes an Associated Press Sports Editors Top 5 award (Under 15,000 circulation) for special section, which he and his staff won in 2013, as well as numerous South Dakota Newspaper Association and Associated Press state awards.

He joins the late Hod Nielsen as Press & Dakotan writers who have received this honor. Nielsen, who won the honor in 1993, 1994 and 1996, remains the only South Dakotan who was recognized as both Sportswriter of the Year and Sportscaster of the Year (in 1976) by the NSSA.

Assistant Sports Editor Jeremy Hoeck was also a finalist for the honor, which is voted on by NSSA members in the state.

Rod Fisher of KGFX Radio in Pierre was recognized as this year's Sportscaster of the Year. The awards will be presented at the NSSA national convention, June 7-9 in Salisbury, N.C.

River Officials Watch Ice Issues



A crew removes snow Thursday to make way for work on Gavins Point Dam near Yankton. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials are monitoring icy conditions throughout the Missouri River basin, particularly downstream from Yankton.

Historic Cold Puts Freeze On River Operations

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials are monitoring Missouri River ice cover, particularly downstream of Yankton.

"The cold weather during the past month created a significant challenge in operations related to icy conditions on the river," said Jody Farhat, the Corps' water management chief in Omaha.

Those icy conditions intensified in recent days, Farhat told the Corps' national conference call.

"A week to 10 days ago, we had solid ice cover upstream of Sioux City, in the Ponca (Neb.) area," she said Thursday. "We are monitoring it carefully. If really cold weather comes into the basin, we will try to 'up' the releases a couple of days in advance — enough to keep the water intakes full and operating during the winter."

The Corps will take to the skies in the coming days for a better look at river conditions, Farhat said.

"We're going to have some aerial photography on Sunday or early next week to better understand what is going on," she said.

The Northern Plains experienced historically cold weather during the last six weeks, contributing to the icy river, said South Dakota Extension state climatologist Dennis Today.

"We were running from 9 to 12 degrees below average over that time period, which is quite cold," he said.

HOW COLD WAS IT?

"Looking at the period of Dec. 1 to Jan. 8, Yankton averaged 13.7 degrees Fahrenheit," Today told the Press & Dakotan. "That tied (with 1985-86) for the second coldest period ever for that set of days. The coldest was 2009-10."

The timing of the cold streak is as noteworthy as the temperatures themselves, said Today, also on

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Fiercely Taking The Lead



ROB NIELSEN/P&D
Dr. Susan Kalsow, Mount Marty College vice-president of academic affairs, leads a two-day training session for MMC faculty and students in preparation of the college's implementation of the Fierce Conversations program.

MMC First To Fully Embrace Skills Program

BY ROB NIELSEN
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Mount Marty College is setting up to be the first college in the nation to fully integrate a program that has been used by schools and businesses across the country to instill leadership skills in students and employees.

Fierce Conversations — a program based on the book "Fierce Conversations" by school teacher-turned-author Susan Scott — is a training program meant to instill leadership skills in business professionals and students alike by teaching tactics for conversation, conflict resolution, delegation, team-building and decision making in a professional setting, according

to the program's website.

During a two-day training program that wrapped up Thursday, Dr. Susan Kalsow, MMC vice-president of academic affairs, said Mount Marty, though not the first school to introduce the program on campus, will be the first to make Fierce Conversations a part of the curriculum for the whole student body starting this year.

"Other schools have incorporated parts of Fierce Conversations into their programs — the University of Washington does it in their graduate program for leadership," she said. "Mount Marty will be the first school in the country to incorporate it for every student. It will

MMC | PAGE 11A

South Dakota

Pheasant Downturn Crimps Revenue

BY BOB MERCER
State Capitol Bureau

FORT PIERRE — The state Wildlife Division received \$1.9 million less than expected from license sales in 2013, officials told the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission on Thursday.

Actual revenue was about \$30,000 below the 2012 total but that was largely due to higher prices for most licenses, according to Chris Petersen, GFP director of administration.

The biggest cause of the downturn was the low pheasant population.

Sales of resident licenses for small game fell by more than 6,800. That was a 24.6 percent decline.

There was a similar drop for sales of small game licenses to non-residents. Those decreased by nearly 9,000 or 19.9 percent.

Sales of combination licenses that cover small game and fishing however remained steady. Those are available to residents.

GFP official Scott Simpson said the small-game license sales fell more than expected.

Two-tag licenses for antelope and

PHEASANTS | PAGE 3A

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Watt

Yankton Woman Ready For Another Year Of Teaching In Afghanistan

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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Although faced with uncertainty about the future of the school that employs her in Afghanistan, Katie Watt is certain she wants to get back to teaching there.

The 22-year-old was recently home in Yankton for the holiday break after wrapping up her first semester of teaching third grade at the International School of Kabul (ISK), which is the only fully-accredited, co-educational, international K-12 school in Afghanistan.

"I'm excited, but I'm more nervous going back this time," Watt told the Press & Dakotan. "I don't know why. I

WATT | PAGE 11A

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