

OUTDOORS DIGEST

Of The Outdoors | Gary Howey

Nine Hunting-Related Incidents In Neb. Reported In 2013

LINCOLN, Neb. — Nine hunting-related incidents were reported to the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission in 2013, one of which resulted in a death.

Four of the incidents involved the discharge of a rifle, four the discharge of a shotgun and one involved a fall from an elevated stand. Seven of the incidents, including the fatal one, involved one person shooting another. One incident involved a self-inflicted injury. Four incidents occurred while hunting upland birds, two while hunting big game, two while hunting nongame animals and one while hunting furbearers.

Over the past decade, there has been an average of 10 hunting incidents per year in Nebraska in which a person is injured or killed. Approximately 175,000 people hunt in Nebraska each year.

"Hunting safety is everyone's concern, and Nebraska hunters do an excellent job of ensuring safety each year," said Mike Streeter, Nebraska hunter education coordinator.

To find a hunter education course in Nebraska, visit [HuntSafeNebraska.org](http://HuntSafeNebraska.org).

Good Earth State Park Receives \$2M Gift

PIERRE — The S.D. Parks and Wildlife Foundation recently announced a \$2 million gift from the Robert and Rita Elmen Foundation designated to "provide quality enhancements to create a world class visitor center and theater for Good Earth State Park."

"The Native American history was what initially grabbed our attention," said Robert Elmen. "I researched what other sites with so many mounds and artifacts had done to interpret history for visitors. I found that a state-of-the-art visitor center that would do justice to Good Earth would cost more than the State of South Dakota anticipated. This gift to the Foundation will make it possible to properly interpret the centuries of culture reflected at Good Earth."

Because the gift will be completed over a period of 25 years, the Department of Game, Fish and Parks has introduced House Bill 1013 to authorize the South Dakota Building Authority to seek bond financing to utilize this gift for construction of a visitor center and associated interpretive displays at Good Earth State Park at Blood Run.

"Bob and Rita Elmen's magnificent generosity will dramatically impact our ability to showcase one of America's and South Dakota's great places," said Jeff Scherschligt, past president of the S.D. Parks and Wildlife Foundation. Scherschligt emphasized, however, "We are getting closer to our fundraising goal, but we are not done. To complete other aspects of the visitor center, an access road, exhibits, interpretive sites and trails, the S.D. Parks and Wildlife must still raise another \$1.2 million in private funds."

Good Earth State Park is part of Blood Run National Historic Landmark located southeast of Sioux Falls, S.D. The landmark is comprised of several thousand acres on both sides of the Big Sioux River in South Dakota and Iowa. Ancestors of the Omaha and Iowa tribes established villages at Blood Run in the late 1400s. From at least AD 1600 to 1700, this tribal community supported a population as high as 6,000 and served as a vibrant exchange center, drawing trade from the Rocky Mountains to the Atlantic Coast.

Good Earth State Park at Blood Run was dedicated on July 19, 2013. At the dedication, Gov. Durgard praised the results of a public/private partnership to move the state toward a fully functioning 13th state park and preserving forever this unique historic site.

# Two Cats Taken In Neb.

BY GARY HOWEY  
Hartington, Neb.

Those, who know Tom Ferry of Ponca, Nebraska know he is passionate about hunting. Off the entry to his home is a room with walls, floor and ceiling adorned with 150 trophy mounts including full mount polar bear, grizzly bear, musk ox, mountain lions, crocodile, leopard and lion.

His hunts have taken him throughout the United States, Africa, Canada, New Zealand and Russia

It was no surprise when Nebraska opened its first mountain lion hunt; Tom wanted to be part of this historic hunt. He was one of the seventy people attending the Nebraska Big Game Society banquet when they held their auction at Mahoney State Park near Ashland as it gave him the opportunity to bid on one of the first mountain lion permits issued by the Nebraska Game & Parks.

Tom's \$13,500.00 bid gave him the opportunity to be one of the two hunters to have the opportunity to take part in Nebraska's first mountain lion hunt. Tom, who believes wildlife, should be managed and knowing the proceeds from the Big Game Society auction would go to the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, which will be used for conservation and mountain lion management and studies were important to him.

He and fifteen year-old Holden Bruce of Franklin, Neb. whose name was drawn from three hundred ninety five Nebraskans who paid fifteen dollars for the opportunity to win the one mountain lion lottery permit, allowing him to take part in Nebraska's first hunt season. The season began Feb. 15 and ran through March 31. During the first season, hunters can hunt behind dogs, which both hunters chose to do.

The quota for the first season would be two mountain lions, with the season ending immediately when one female cougar is killed.

The area they would be hunting, the Pine Ridge Mountain Lion Management Unit is located in the Northwest corner of the state in parts of Box Butte, Dawes, Sheridan and Sioux counties. Much of the 801 acres in this unit, covered by Ponderosa pine forests with rolling grassland, not the area Ferry hunted. Ferry, who has hunted throughout North America, Africa, Russia and New Zealand said, "the terrain we hunted in was as rugged as any I've been on."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Tom Ferry of Ponca, Neb., is pictured with his mountain lion, the first taken during Nebraska's first season.



Gary HOWEY

Both hunters would pursue their mountain lion in the Ponderosa Wildlife Management area located southeast of Crawford, Nebraska.

Deric Anderson from Newcastle, Neb., who has a cattle ranch near Harrison, Neb. offered to help Bruce on the hunt, by contacting landowners, obtaining hunting access and scouted the area.

Ferry was hunting with guide Doug Dillon of Dillon Guide Service ([www.dillonfencing.com](http://www.dillonfencing.com)) headquartered out of Whitney, Neb.

Snow is an important part of mountain lion hunting as it allows hunters to locate cats travel route. Once tracks are located, the tracking dogs are released and the hunt is on.

Both hunters took their cats Thursday morning in areas not far from each other.

Ferry's group had three college students out scouting in different areas that came across two sets of fresh tracks, with Tom choosing to pursue the lion with the larger tracks. Three hours later the blue tick and redbone-tracking dogs treed the cat.

He harvested the first mountain lion in Nebraska, when he took his 160-165 pound cat, estimated by the Nebraska Game & Parks Furbearer/Carnivore manager to be a 7-9 year old cat with his 340 Weatherby, a male cat.

Ferry plans to have the cat mounted and be able to display it in Northeast Nebraska's Ponca State Park.

Bruce's group was able to track and tree his cat, a 102-pound two-

year old male two hours later in an area northwest of Harrison, Nebraska.

Nebraska's second season will run from Feb. 15 - March 31 with 100 permits being allocated by lottery. It like the first season will allow two lions to be harvested, and will close once one female cat is taken.

The remainder of the state, the Prairie unit will now be open throughout the year for mountain lion hunting to residents' with unlimited permits. There are two units in the state closed to lion hunting, the Keya Paha unit in north central Nebraska and the Upper Platte unit located in the southwestern corner of the Nebraska Panhandle.

These large predators go by several names, including puma, cougar, the mountain cat and most commonly the mountain lion.

Reports of these big cats have become more and more frequent with sightings common in South Dakota, Iowa and Nebraska

These big cats began moving into Nebraska from Colorado, South Dakota and Wyoming during the 1990's.

They have re-colonized the Pine Ridge and Niobrara River Valley in northwestern Nebraska and believed to be re-colonizing other areas with suitable habitat such as the Wildcat Hills. Mountain lions have been documented throughout Nebraska including agricultural areas where suitable habitat could be limited.

One of the largest carnivores in the U.S. there are those believing

they do not belong in their area, especially when spotted in close proximity to a community, while others, believe they should be allowed to roam freely across the state.

Seasons on these cats have established in numerous states including South Dakota where their mountain lion season has been open for several years. During this year's season, a maximum of 75 mountain lions, or when 50 female mountain lions are harvested from the Black Hills Fire Protection District, located in west central South Dakota.

Like them or not, mountain lions are once again roaming many areas in the United States including the states of Nebraska and South Dakota.

Gary Howey, Hartington, Neb., is a former tournament angler, fishing and hunting guide. He is the Producer/Host of the award winning *Outdoorsmen Adventures television series*, seen on Fox affiliates throughout the upper Midwest. In the Yankton area, it is seen on local channels 2 & 98 Saturday at 6:30 pm and Sunday at 7:00 am. It is also available on KTTW/KTTM-TV (Fox) Sioux Falls/Huron, S.D. Saturdays at 7:00 am as well as on MIDCO Sports Network Thursday at 5:30 pm and Sunday at 10:00 am. He and Simon Fuller are the hosts of the *Outdoor Adventures radio program Monday-Saturday at 6:45 am on Classic Hits 106.3 and ESPN Sports Radio 1570*. If you are looking for more outdoor information, check out [www.outdoorsmenadventures.com](http://www.outdoorsmenadventures.com).

## Boys

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same tournament.  
GAYVILLE-VOLUN (0-8).....9 19 30 45  
VIBORG-HURLEY (5-2).....20 38 51 69

### Wausa 56, Randolph 48

RANDOLPH, Neb. — Austin Conn led four Wausa Vikings in double figures with 14 points in a 56-48 road win Friday night at Randolph.

Devon Munter, Jordan Burns and Spencer Rosberg all added 12 points for Wausa, which led 25-11 at halftime.

WAUSA.....16 25 40 56  
RANDOLPH.....7 11 27 48

### Bloomfield 66,

### Plainview 43

BLOOMFIELD, Neb. — Adam Haigh scored 18 points as the Bloomfield Bees turned a 13-point halftime lead into a 66-43 home win over Plainview on Friday night.

Aaron Millikan added eight points, while Cody Beckmann and Derek Goeden both scored seven points. Tim Broders pulled down eight rebounds.

Sam Mueret scored 16 points for Plainview.

PLAINVIEW.....9 18 31 43  
BLOOMFIELD.....13 31 52 66

### Menno 52,

### Bridgewater-Emery 39

MENNO — The Menno Wolves topped Bridgewater-Emery in Combelt Conference basketball action Friday night winning 52-39.

Chet Peterson led the way for the Wolves with 20 points, five steals. He was joined in double figures by Dustin Lehr with 13 points, Dylan Lehr with 12 points and Caleb Preszler who pulled down a team high 9 rebounds.

For the Huskies Jerret Weber with 14 points, 8 rebounds and Wade Miller with 14 points, 2 assists, 3 steals provided the bulk of the scoring on the night.

The Huskies fall to 2-6, 0-4 on the season and move on to host Marion at

Bridgewater on Tuesday. Menno who moved to 3-4, 1-1 in conference will face off against Ethan Monday in a double header.

In JV action, Bridgewater-Emery came away with a 37-27 victory.

BRIDGEWATER-EMERY (2-6, 0-4).....14 21 29 39  
MENNO (2-6, 0-4).....14 21 29 39

### Freeman 80, Marion 55

MARION — The Freeman Flyers jumped out to an early lead and never looked back en route to an 80-55 win at Marion on Friday night.

No stats were reported for the Flyers (4-2), who gave head coach Rory Hermesen his 198th career win.

For the hometown Bears (1-5), Jacob Wuertz scored 16 points and grabbed seven rebounds. Lincoln Langerock added 15 points, while Nick Gorkmaker recorded 13 points, 13 rebounds, six assists and three steals.

Both teams are in action next Tuesday, as Freeman hosts Centerville and Marion plays Bridgewater-Emery in Bridgewater.

FREEMAN (4-2).....21 38 55 80  
MARION (1-5).....15 21 38 55

### Madison 68,

### Beresford 40

BERESFORD — In the battle of the Bulldogs, Madison handed Beresford its third loss of the season with a 68-40 victory in Beresford Friday night moving to 8-0 on the season.

Led by senior Trae VandeBerg's 21 points the Bulldogs of Madison got out to a quick lead doubling up Beresford in the first quarter and never looked back. Adding 12 points of his own was Rush Milne. Jacob Giles added 9 rebounds in the game.

For Beresford Kory Diefendorf and Logan Busch each scored 12 points in the loss.

Madison moves on to host Dakota Valley tonight (Saturday) while Beresford will host Tri-Valley on Tuesday.

MADISON (8-0).....20 38 58 68  
BERESFORD (5-3).....10 14 28 40

### Mt. Vernon-Plankinton

### 50, Tri-Valley 47

COLTON — With a 19-point scoring

barrage, Deric Denning of Mt. Vernon-Plankinton not only led the team to victory over Tri-Valley 50-47, he also joined the 1000 point club.

Denning who added five rebounds on the night was joined by Tate Deinert who added 10 points, seven rebounds and five assists on the night to lead the way for the Titans who move to 7-2 on the season.

Tri-Valley was led by Brendon Boomsma's 17 points. Will Steineke added 13 points in the loss.

The Mustangs, who fell to 4-5 with the loss, will face off against Beresford on Tuesday, while the Titans will host Canton tonight (Saturday).

TRI-VALLEY (4-5).....18 28 40 47  
MT. VERNON-PLANKINTON (7-2).....13 32 42 50

### Washington 45,

### Lincoln 41

SIOUX FALLS — Brett Stanley posted 17 points and 10 rebounds to lead Washington past Lincoln 45-41 in a hard-fought Sioux Falls city battle on Friday.

Deng Geu had 10 points and nine rebounds for the victorious Warriors. Sam Siganos added five assists and five steals for Washington, which won despite shooting just 17-57 (29.8 percent) from the field.

Addison Park led Lincoln with 20 points and 14 rebounds. Calvin Krause finished with 10 points for the Patriots, who shot just 15-58 (25.9 percent) from the field.

Washington, 5-4, hosts Watertown on Tuesday. Lincoln, which saw its two-game win streak snapped, hosts Sioux City (Iowa) East on Jan. 25.

WASHINGTON (5-4).....9 20 30 45  
LINCOLN (4-6).....6 18 25 41

### Sioux Valley 70,

### McCook Cen-Mont 33

MONTROSE — Sioux Valley stormed out to a 24-6 lead after one quarter and didn't look back, rolling past McCook Central-Montrose 70-33 in Big East Conference boys' basketball action on Friday.

Tayt Vincent had 16 points and five assists, and Collin Kramer had 13 points, eight rebounds, six blocked shots and four steals to lead Sioux Valley. Jake Larson added 11 points in the victory.

Will Gottlob led MCM with 15 points and eight rebounds.

Sioux Valley, 10-0 overall and 4-0 in the Big East, faces Chester on Tuesday. MCM, 5-4 and 3-1, faces Flandreau on Jan. 24.

Elkton-Lake Benton 63, Deubrook 41 ELKTON — Elkton-Lake Benton jumped out to a 21-11 lead after one quarter and didn't look back, beating Deubrook 63-41 in boys' basketball action on Friday.

Nathan Krog led Elkton-Lake Benton with 18 points, seven rebounds and five steals. Heath Schindler posted 16 points and eight assists. Trevan Farnham scored 15 points and Quinn Fargen added seven assists in the victory.

For Deubrook, Quinn Petersen led the way with nine points and 12 rebounds.

E-LB, 6-3, plays Dell Rapids St. Mary in the opening round of the Dakota Valley Conference Tournament on Monday in Colman. Deubrook, 4-3, plays Oldham-Ramona-Rutland in the DVC Tourney

## Bucks

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Travis Barton and Brevin Kaiser each added seven points in the loss, while Kaiser grabbed a game-high 12 rebounds.

Yankton has a week off before it returns to action next Friday at Watertown, followed by a trip to Aberdeen the following day.

"We definitely need it, too," Haynes said. "We've been going hard since we got back from Christmas break, so it'll be nice to get these guys a weekend off."

"We still have a lot of things we need to get better at."

opener on Monday.

E-LB won the JV game 32-18.

DEUBROOK (4-3).....11 22 35 41  
ELKTON-LAKE BENTON (6-3).....21 33 53 63

### Clark-Willow Lake 57,

### Sisseton 43

SISSETON — Clark-Willow Lake used four players in double figures, led by Tyson Jenkins' double-double, to beat Sisseton 57-43 in boys' basketball action on Friday.

Jenkins finished with 17 points and 15 rebounds for Clark-Willow Lake. Cooper Hartley netted 12 points. Braxton Hartley and Mitch Prouty each had 10 points in the victory.

Jordan Cornelius scored a game-high 18 points to lead Sisseton. Wyatt Youngblom added 12 points.

CWL, 7-2 and winners of four straight, hosts Great Plains Lutheran on Monday in Willow Lake. Sisseton, 5-3, faces Custer in Redfield today (Saturday).

CLARK-WILLOW LAKE (7-2).....9 30 41 57  
SISSETON (5-3).....11 17 30 43

## Vikings

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For those close to him, and for Zimmer himself, that's an exaggerated persona.

"I think I'm an honest person. I think I'm sincere. All I want to do is make each player better no matter how that is," Zimmer said.

Zimmer and Spielman already appeared to have a rapport in place. Crafting the roster is Spielman's responsibility, but the head coach is a huge part of it. Neither of them expressed any concern about conflict from bluntness; rather, they welcomed it.

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at [twitter.com/jhoeck](http://twitter.com/jhoeck). Discuss this story at [www.yankton.net](http://www.yankton.net).

PIERRE (7-1)  
Garrett Pochop 2-7 2-4 6; Austin Christopherson 2-10 1-2 6; Nick Rabem 0-1 0-1 0; Erin Sevigny 2-7 2-2 6; Cody Sornsen 0-0 0-0 0; Trey Livermont 4-8 6-6 17; Travis Barton 3-4 0-0 7; Brevin Kaiser 3-11 1-5 7; Cooper Walton 1-1 2-3 4. TOTALS 17-55 14-23 53.  
YANKTON (5-4)  
Tanner Frick 0-1 0-0 0; Ryan Olson 0-0 13-16 13; Reid Sawatzke 3-12 3-6 9; Austin Johnson 0-0 0-0 0; Lane Sawatzke 2-4 0-0 5; J.J. Hejna 5-8 0-1 10; Mitch Gullikson 2-3 2-3 6; Brady Hale 3-9 6-8 13; Evan Greenway 1-1 0-2 2. TOTALS 16-38 24-36 58.  
PIERRE.....8 29 35 53  
YANKTON.....14 28 37 58  
Three-Pointers: Pierre 5-20 (Livermont 3-5, Barton 1-1, Christopherson 1-6, Kaiser 0-1, Sevigny 0-2, Rabem 0-5), Yankton 2-6 (L. Sawatzke 1-1, Hale 1-2, R. Sawatzke 0-3). Total Rebounds: Yankton 38 (Hejna 10), Pierre 30 (Kaiser 12). Turnovers: Yankton 21, Pierre 16. Personal Fouls: Pierre 26, Yankton 20. Fouled Out: Walton.

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