

# Agency Investing In Urban Fishing

**BY CARSON WALKER**  
Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — More rural South Dakota residents are moving to cities, so the state's wildlife agency is taking the fish to the fishermen.

Specifically, it's focusing more resources on urban and community fishing areas to ensure they're well stocked, healthy and attracting anglers.

"Twenty years ago you wouldn't think South Dakota's outdoor traditions would be in danger. South Dakota's always been known as a hunting and fishing state," said Todd St. Sauver, regional fisheries manager for the Department of Game, Fish and Parks in Sioux Falls.

But with the demographic shift away from rural areas, fewer resident licenses for hunting and especially for fishing are being sold, he said Friday. That's a problem because fees from those licenses fund wildlife conservation efforts, he added.

Revenue from resident and nonresident fishing and hunting license fees was \$26.8 million in 2012, down from \$27.5 million in 2007, said Chris Petersen, director of administration at

Game, Fish and Parks.

"We're higher than we were a decade ago, but we're on a downward trend in recent years," he said.

Other divisions in the department receive funding from the Legislature, but wildlife conservation operates without such assistance.

John Lott, head of the department's state fisheries program, said the state has been stocking lakes and other bodies of water in cities for years, but urban growth has prompted the agency to be more deliberate about it.

"We want to have fisheries near people. It's very important to have that if you want to recruit and retain anglers. You need to have that local fishing spot," Lott said.

Sioux Falls, Rapid City, Spearfish, Pierre, Aberdeen, Brookings, Yankton and some smaller cities such as Arlington and Winner have or are working on community or urban fishing sites managed by the department, he said.

St. Sauver said one example is Family Park on the northwest edge of Sioux Falls, which lies on an old gravel pit. The family that owns Soukup Construction donated the 90 acres, the depart-

## Safeguards For Guardianships Promised

**BY GRANT SCHULTE**  
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska's courts are adding new safeguards to the state guardianship system after an audit uncovered lax oversight and suspected fraud in programs designed to protect the elderly and disabled, the state's chief Supreme Court justice said Friday.

Chief Justice Michael Heavican told lawmakers in his State of the Judiciary message Friday that the courts are developing an internal audit system for guardianship cases to notify judges when a guardian has been removed from a case for cause.

"It is crucial that we all continue to work together to create improved safeguards to protect those who might easily be harmed," Heavican said. "We all have a responsibil-

ity to keep those individuals and their assets safe.”

A state audit released in November found mismanagement of state payment programs to legal guardians for the blind, elderly and disabled. Auditors uncovered one suspected fraud case involving Judith Widener, a Bayard woman who once served as a guardian to more than 600 people throughout Nebraska.

Widener is accused of collecting payments that were intended for her court-appointed wards, even though some were dead or no longer in her care, according to a sworn statement filed by the Nebraska State Patrol.

Widener has filed a plea of abatement, challenging technical aspects of the case against her. She has declined interview requests.

Heavican said the courts

## Lincoln Patrol Monitors Seat Belt Safety

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Authorities are focusing on seat belt safety in communities near Lincoln.

The headquarters troop of the Nebraska State Patrol in Lincoln says it's conducting an extended special enforcement between January and March that will involve high visibility patrols in Gage, Saline and Otoe counties.

Captain Lance Rogers of the headquarters troop says officials are seeing a high rate of crashes in the area involving drivers not wearing seat belts. He says the enforcement is aimed at raising awareness and reducing crashes that cause serious injuries and death.

The Nebraska Office of Highway Safety is providing a \$6,600 grant to help with overtime hours for troopers.

## UNL Economic Report Signals Growth

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — The latest month economic forecast report from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's department of economics improved from the previous month, and an economist who oversees the report says it could indicate strong economic growth for Nebraska this summer.

The Leading Economic Indicator, produced by UNL economics department faculty and students, increased by more than three-quarters of a percent in December from November.

Economist Eric Thompson, director of UNL's Bureau of Business Research, says the increase "suggests that economic growth in Nebraska may accelerate during the summer of 2014."

The indicator is a composite of six components used to predict future economic growth: Single-family building permits, airline passenger counts, unemployment claims, manufacturing hours, the value of the U.S. dollar and business expectations as reported in a survey of Nebraska businesses.

## Madison Water Declared Safe To Drink

MADISON (AP) — It's OK to drink the water in Madison again.

The city's 6,500 residents were told to stop using it late Wednesday when a concrete-and-dirt roof collapsed into an underground well that feeds the city's water towers, which contaminated the water.

Schools canceled classes Thursday, and bottled water was trucked into town as crews worked to clean up the mess and restore water service.

Residents were told late Thursday they could use the water for showering and doing laundry.

Then on Friday the city said the water was tested at the Sioux Falls Health Lab and deemed safe for all purposes.

## Students To Recite Pledge Daily

DEADWOOD, S.D. (AP) — The Lead-Deadwood School District is the latest in South Dakota to have students at all grade levels cite the Pledge of Allegiance each day.

Superintendent Dan Leikvold tells the *Black Hills Pioneer* that officials came to the decision after discussing the matter for a couple of months.

The issue became a hot topic in South Dakota late last year when school districts in the state's two largest cities, Sioux Falls and Rapid City, decided to have students recite the pledge daily.

The Associated School Boards of South Dakota in November passed a resolution supporting legislation during this year's session that would urge school districts to have students recite the pledge daily.

A word cloud featuring various health professions training programs. The words are arranged in a circular pattern, with some appearing more frequently or in larger fonts than others. The programs listed include: Medical School, Nursing, Pharmacist, Physician Assistant, Social Work, Health Sciences Major, Medical Lab Science, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Dental Hygiene, and Addiction Studies. The text is in a clean, sans-serif font, and the overall color scheme is monochromatic, using shades of gray.


THE HEALTH PROFESSIONS TRAINING PROGRAMS  
OF SOUTH DAKOTA

**Wish to Extend Our Most Sincere Thanks  
to the Many South Dakota Community Clinicians  
Who Taught Our Students in the Past Year**


# We couldn't do it without you!

Thank You!

  
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