OUTDOORS DIGEST

Boating Education At Ponca State Park

NORFOLK, Neb. — Ponca State Park will offer a Boating Safety Course for ages 14 and up on Sunday, January 25th, 12 a.m to 6 p.m.; the fee is $10 per person. Upon completion, participants will receive a course certificate. To register, please call 402-241-6715.

Nebraska law requires any motorboat operator (including personal watercraft) born after December 31, 1985 to complete a Boating Safety Course and be in possession of a course certificate when operating any motorized watercraft. Users must be at least 14 years of age to operate a motorboat in Nebraska.

Outdoor Activities At Ponca State Park

NORFOLK, Neb. — Ponca State Park's outdoor schedule will focus on birding activities and hikes on Saturday, January 24. All activities will meet at the Outdoor Education Center and is open to all ages.

At 11 a.m., learn about the types of birds you may see in Nebraska and discover some backyard birding tips from park naturalists. Activity is free.

Then at 11:30 a.m., learn about the types of human foods birds also enjoy while making your own bird feed garland to hang in your backyard for $1 per craft.

At 1 p.m., join park naturalists for a nature hike on the Education Center Trail. Participants should dress accordingly, bring water, their cameras and binoculars. Activity is free.

Enjoy the park's cross country ski trails, sledding hills, hiking trails and the 1st Annual Snowman Building Contest all day.

For more information, contact Ponca State Park at 402-755-2284.

S.D. State Parks Report Record Camping Numbers

PIERRE — More people camped in the South Dakota State Parks this past year than ever before. The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) reported that the parks hosted over 290,000 nights of camping last year, up 3.8 percent over 2013.

"Camping continues to be a popular pastime in the state," said Doug Hofer, director of GFP's Division of Parks and Recreation. "But it doesn't stop there. The many recreational opportunities in the parks — from fishing to hiking to nature programs — all work together to provide a unique outdoor experience that attracts visitors."

One of the biggest highlights of 2014 occurred at South Dakota's newest park, Good Earth State Park at Blood Run, located near Sioux Falls. Good Earth, which officially became a state park in July 2013, saw a 27 percent increase in visitation in 2014.

Other parks that saw notable increases were Sheps Canyon on Angostura Reservoir and Fisher Grove near Redfield. Sheps Canyon has been gaining popularity since its creation in 2012, popular for its camping, horse trails, lodge, boating, fishing and hunting. Likewise, campers have come back in big numbers to Fisher Grove, where an entire new campground was built in late 2013 following the flood of 2011.

Hofer said he expects the state parks to do just as well in 2015. The year has already started off strong with a number of popular events in January, including 12 hikes on New Year's Day, several snowshoe hikes and ice fishing tournaments. The state parks are open year-round and visitors often take advantage of the heated camping cabins during the winter months.

The year is looking particularly bright for Custer State Park in the Black Hills. Several projects are planned for the popular park, including construction of a new visitor center, improvements and additions to facilities at the resort and the 50th anniversary of the Buffalo Roundup.

Campsite reservations also indicate a busy year. Reservations for Custer State Park, which are available one year in advance, already show strong camping numbers for the destination park.

Reservations at other state parks can be made 90 days before arrival. Feb. 14 is the first day to make camping reservations for a May 15 arrival, which is Open House Weekend in the South Dakota State Parks. Reservations can be made at www.campsd.com.

Of The Outdoors | Gary Howey

Cold Temps & Hardwater Angling

BY GARY HOWEY
Hartington, Neb.

Some folks may wonder about those of us who spend time ice fishing, to be honest with you, there are times I wonder about it myself. Wondering why we would leave a warm lodge when the wind chill is minus thirty degrees the answer is simple, we love it!

Last week our crew, Team Outdoorsmen Adventures members Larry Myhre (Sioux City, Iowa), Scott Ulrich (Hartington, Nebraska) and I made our way north to Hidden Hills Lodge (Roslyn). On this trip, we would be fishing the ice-covered Glacial Lakes in search of perch and walleyes.

We would be joining good friend Casey Weismantel (Aberdeen C.V.B., HuntFishSD.com), Austin Kaus (S.D. Tourism, travelsd.com/tourism), Greg Liebel (East River Guide Service, dakotasportsman.com, ice-fishing pros from Clam clamoutdoors.com and Vexilar vexilar.com).

Gary **HOWEY**

We will be fishing in the Glacial Lakes of South Dakota, the part of the state where I grew up, where my love of the outdoors was nurtured.

Returning to the area, reinvigorates me, bringing me back to a time and the places where life was less demanding.

Hidden Hills Lodge as its name implies is located on the banks of Hidden Lake, a beautiful private lake holding excellent populations of perch and walleyes. Within forty miles of the lodge, you will find over forty lakes, most offering excellent fishing

We arrived on a beautiful sunny winter day, with most of our crew already on several of the lakes found in the area. It would not take us long to realize we should have arrived earlier as our crew as well as others were tearing up the perch and walleye on several lakes and sloughs in the area. One group, from the Omaha area who were staying at the Lodge, stayed on the ice until after dark, which paid off as they had a nice bunch of perch and several walleyes, with one over nine pounds, a real trophy which would soon be on the wall. Casey and the crew who had fished in another lake in the area had also caught some nice perch all around one pound.

PHOTO: TEAM OUTDOORSMEN ADVENTURES
Boomer Stelmach (Elk River, Minnesota) is pictured with a perch taken while fishing out of Hidden Lake Lodge in northeastern South Dakota.

Anyone who spends much time fishing or hunting knows, Mother Nature is the boss and as we were feasting on an unbelievable prime rib meal, we were once again reminded of it as

KELO-TV was reporting the temperatures the following day would reach a high of nine degrees with winds up to forty-two miles per hour and a wind chill of minus twenty-nine degrees. Now that is COLD, but it could and it would get worse.

With the wind howling outside, I headed for bed, but before calling it a night; I made sure I was ready for tomorrow.

Digging through my bags, I proceeded to get ready for the cold morning temperatures we would be facing. I dug through my bags, looking for my cold weather gear including; my Long Johns, Polypro socks, Wool socks, Heavy Wrangler jeans, Heavy turtleneck, Sweatshirt, Arctic Armor Ice Fishing bibs and jacket, Heavy hooded sweatshirt, Cold weather boots, Polypro glove liners, Ice Team gloves, Face Mask, Stocking cap and last but not least my Kahtoola Microspikes Ice cleats. With all of this, I hoped to be dressed warm enough be able to spend some time out on the frozen tundra without becoming a popsicle.

The wind blew hard throughout the night and upon awakening when the sun appeared, it was surrounded by a pair of sun dogs, signaling the start of another cold day.

After a hearty breakfast, our caravan headed for Club House Slough, located a short drive from the Lodge where the day before the cold front moved in, the perch bite had been excellent.

Upon arriving, the blowing snow created white out conditions making it hard to see what was going on out on the ice? As we worked our way out onto the ice, through the blowing snow, we could see dozens of icehouses; shelters and sleds set up along the far end of the lake.

If we were to use our one-man Clams, we had brought along, filming was going to be tough and when Jeff Arnesen, Aberdeen, S.D. offered to allow us to fish in his Ice Lodge, we quickly accepted.

Using our Vexilar's, light rods and jigging spoons tipped with minnow heads, our crew probed the depths of the slough. When one or more of our Vexilar lit up, one of our crew would do their best to entice a bite and then to set the hook, bringing one of the sloughs numerous perch onto the ice.

We fished the slough until mid afternoon, where the bite was not frantic, yet we managed to put thirty perch on the ice, many of which would be right at a pound.

Our plan would be to head out onto Hidden Lake, the Lodge's private lake where guest at the Lodge the night before had caught the big walleyes and perch.

Once again, because of the weather we would be fishing out of Jeff's Ice Lodge, while others toughed it out on the ice or in their Clams.

Shortly after we arrived, Corey Struder from Vexilar put the first fish on the ice. He was fishing out in the open where he landed the first walleye of the day, a chunky 2 pounder. Later, Craig Oyler, Ice Team Pro fishing out of a Clam, landed the big fish of the day, a fat four-pound female that he released back into the lake. Greg Liebel, fishing out of his Clam added several others while the bite in our house was slow. When our Vexilar's would light up, the fish were finicky with many of the fish coming in under us ignoring our offerings. Jeff and Boomer Stelmach both took fish, but nothing like the guys had taken the day before as the cold front, had definitely slowed the bite.

As the darkness came over the landscape and with the temperatures dropping, we called it a day with four more walleyes and five perch. The brutal cold made packing up our gear a cold job and we were happy to make the short drive back to the Lodge.

The following morning we had hoped to do some more fishing, but the minus fifteen below zero and heavy winds quickly convinced us to pack up and make the cold trip home.

The folks at Hidden Hill Lodge do an excellent job, a beautiful lodge, serving unbelievable meals and have superb accommodations. If you are looking for a great place for a family get away, to have a corporate meeting, to pheasant hunt or an excellent fishing destination, you will want to check out Hidden Hill Lodge. You can give them a call at 605-550-0445 or look them up on the web at hiddenhill-lodge.com.

If you want information on all that is going on in the Aberdeen area, check out their web sites at HuntFishSD.com and VisitAberdeenSD.com.

Gary Howey, Hartington, Nebraska, is a former tournament angler, fishing and hunting guide. He is the Producer/Host of the award winning Outdoorsmen Adventures television series, seen in the Yankton area on local channels 2 & 98 Saturday at 6:30 pm and Sunday@ 7:00, on KTTM/KTTW-TV Fox-Sioux Falls and Huron at 6:30 am Saturdays and on the MIDCO Sports Network Thursday at 5:30 pm and Sunday at 10:00 am. He and Simon Fuller Co-Host the Outdoor Adventures radio program on Classic Hits 106.3, ESPN Sports Radio 1570 in Southeastern South Dakota and Northeast Nebraska. In Northwest Iowa, it airs on KCHE 92.1 FM. If you are looking for more outdoor information, check out www.outdoorsmenadventures.com.

Gazelles

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vantage of in preparation for their next games.

"We knew Pierre was going to be agressive defensively, so we took note of that in practice, and the girls listened to us and we know now how coachable they are," he said.

The Lady Govs also claimed a win at the junior varsity level 45-31, with Pierre's Peyton Pietz putting up 14 points and four assists. Maddie Reinke added 10 points and four assists. Yankton's Ashley VanMeeteren had 10 points and two rebounds.

You can follow Emily Niebrugge on Twitter at twitter.com/ENiebrugge. Discuss this story at yankton.net.

YANKTON (2-7)
Becky Frick 3-7 0-0 6, Sophie Drotzmann 2-7 0-0 4, Josie Sayler 2-3 1-2 5, Andi Sprakel 2-4 0-0 6, Lindsey Hale 5-10 0-0 10, Sarah Rockne 0-0 0-0 0, Madason Tessier 5-6 0-0 10, Kami Cornemann 0-1 0-0 0, Ashley VanMeeteren 0-0 0-0 0. TOTALS: 19-38 1-2 41.
PIERRE (8-1)
Hallie Jerome 2-8 1-1 5, Nikky Farnsworth 7-7 1-4 18, McKenna Halverson 1-3 0-0 2, Jory Mullen 0-4 0-0 0, Sydney Palmer 6-16 7-7 22, Kallie Stout 0-0 0-0 0, Cody Ryckman 1-1 0-0 2, Tori Thorpe 1-4 0-0 3, Kim Coats 0-0 0-0 0, Maddie Reinke 0-0 0-0 0, Chantal Lewis 0-0 0-0 0, Erika Stout 0-0 0-0 0.

YANKTON	**4**	**22**	**33**	**41**
PIERRE	**8**	**17**	**33**	**52**

Three-Pointers: P 7-18 (Jerome 0-4, Farnsworth 3-3, Halverson 0-1, Palmer 3-8, Thorpe 1-2), Y 2-5 (Sprakel 2-3, Hale 0-2). Rebounds: Y 24 (Sayler 7), P 21 (Palmer 9). Personal Fouls: Y 12, P 8. Fouled Out: None. Assists: Y 17 (Hale 5), P 15 (Halverson 4). Turnovers: Y 34, P 23. Blocked Shots: Y 0, P 0. Steals: P 17 (Farnsworth 7), Y 7 (Frick 4).

JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D
Yankton's Tanner Frick keeps Pierre's Brad Dean in front of him during the first half of their Eastern South Dakota Conference boys' basketball game on Friday at the Summit Center. Frick scored with three seconds left to lift Yankton to a 39-37 victory.

Bucks

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13 rebounds.

"We told those guys early in the season to just hang in there, that it'll come; it's a process," Haynes said. "They've kept working hard."

A pair of surges at the end of the first two quarters — including an 11-0 run in the second — propelled the Bucks to a 22-13 halftime lead.

Yankton then led 33-22 after three quarters, with the Governors still struggling from the field — they finished the game at 27 percent shooting.

"We just had trouble finding the rim," Becker said. "We just told the guys to hang in there. We could've folded the tent, but they kept at it."

Brevin Kaiser led Pierre with 14 points and 10 rebounds, but it's the Bucks who got the much-needed victory.

"That's a good win for us," Frick said. "We needed that really bad."

Yankton, which is in the midst of an 11-game month, is off until next Tuesday when it hosts Sioux Falls O'Gorman.

"We're in a real meat part of our schedule, so to get a win is nice for our morale," Haynes said.

In sub-varsity action, Yankton won the JV game 64-57 behind 12 points from Jordan Payer and 10 points from LaCroix.

The Bucks won the sophomore game 58-42 thanks to 12 points from Payer and 10 points from Michael Heine. In the freshman game, Yankton won 52-31, with Cameron Krejci and Jack Wolfgram each scoring 10 points.

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at twitter.com/jhoeck. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net.

PIERRE (6-3)
Charlie Anderson 0-6 0-0 0; Nick Rabern 2-9 1-2 6; Erin Severyn 3-13 1-2 9; Ethan Leif 0-2 0-0 0; Brevin Kaiser 5-9 4-6 14; Brad Dean 1-3 0-0 2; Trey Livermont 0-0 0-0 0; Daly Beck 1-1 0-0 2; Matt Booth 0-1 0-0 0; Clay Bush 0-1 0-0 0. TOTALS 12-45 6-10 33.
YANKTON (6-3)
Matt Fitzgerald 0-2 0-3 0; Brady Hale 3-12 3-4 10; Tanner Frick 5-10 0-0 12; Luke Rockne 0-3 0-0 0; Keenan LaCroix 2-7 2-2 6; Bradey Sorenson 4-7 0-0 9; Evan Greeneway 1-4 0-2 2. TOTALS 15-45 5-11 39.

PIERRE	**8**	**13**	**22**	**37**
YANKTON	**9**	**22**	**33**	**39**

Three-Pointers: Yankton 4-10 (Frick 2-3, Sorenson 1-2, Hale 1-3, Rockne 0-1, LaCroix 0-1), Pierre 3-21 (Severyn 2-9, Rabern 1-5, Dean 0-2, Anderson 0-5). Total Rebounds: Yankton 40 (LaCroix 13), Pierre 30 (Kaiser 10). Assists: Yankton 9 (Sorenson 3), Pierre 5 (Severyn 2). Turnovers: Pierre 16, Yankton 18. Personal Fouls: Pierre 15, Yankton 14. Fouled Out: None.

SPORTS DIGEST

DSU Dairy Queen Shootout Jan. 24

MADISON — Several area teams are scheduled to compete in the Dairy Queen Dakota State University Shootout boys' basketball classic, set for Saturday, Jan. 24, in Madison.

Viborg-Hurley will face Lower Brule at 11:30 a.m., followed by Bon Homme against West Central at 1 p.m. Menno will play Highmore-Harrold at 4 p.m. Freeman plays Hills-Beaver Creek, Minnesota, at 7 p.m.

The action begins at 10 a.m. with Howard against Florence-Henry. Kimball-White Lake plays Bridgewater-Emery at 2:30 p.m. DeSmet faces Ellsworth, Minnesota at 5:30 p.m. Play concludes with Tri-Valley against St. Francis Indian at 8:30 p.m.

YHS Gymnastics Team Announces Schedule Change

The Yankton High School activities department and the Gazelles gymnastics team have announced a schedule change for their Jan. 27 event at Sioux Falls.

The event, which was originally scheduled as a triangular with O'Gorman and Washington, will now also include Madison. The quad will be held at Power and Grace gymnastics in Sioux Falls, beginning at 4:30 p.m.

S.D. Kayak Challenge May 23-24

Almost two dozen kayak racers already have signed up for the May 23-24 South Dakota Kayak Challenge, which opened registration on Jan. 1.

The 72-mile race on the Missouri National Recreational River begins in Yankton. This year, the event moves its finish line to South Sioux City, Neb., creating a more user-friendly finish area and excellent opportunities for individuals and teams to complete the Challenge with more amenities including nearby camping. In past years, the race had ended in Sioux City, Iowa.

Full details, rules and a registration form are available at sdkayakchallenge.org. While truly a challenge, racers with gusto but little experience finish the river race each year.

The South Dakota Kayak Challenge also seeks volunteers and sponsors. Contact information for its founders is available on the website, as well as on Facebook.

Bono Selected For Team USA Wrestling Event

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. -- SDSU head wrestling coach Chris Bono has been selected to lead one of five USA Wrestling teams that will compete in five countries as part of the winter international tour season.

Bono will lead a 16-man roster that includes SDSU assistant Jon Reader to the Yasar Dogu International on March 28-29.

Joining Reader on the roster is 2012 Olympic bronze medalist Coleman Scott, along with a strong group of young talent that includes 2014 NCAA champion David Taylor.

DWU Football Wins NAIA Champions Of Character Award

MITCHELL — The last three years have brought a rarely-before-seen run of success for the Dakota Wesleyan University football team on the field under Head Coach Ross Cimpl, but the Tigers were honored for their work off the field, as well as on with a national award this week.

The DWU football team was named the 2014 recipient of the Buffalo Fund Five Star Champions of Character Team Award for the NAIA football season.

The Buffalo Funds Five Star Champions of Character Team Awards are given at the end of the season to one team from each of the NAIA's 23 championship sports. Teams are honored with this award for demonstrating integrity, respect responsibility, sportsmanship and servant leadership, according to the NAIA. These institutions and athletic programs strive for excellence in and out of competition and are part of communities throughout the country dedicated to character-driven intercollegiate athletics.

According to the NAIA, there were six teams nominated for the award, with the winner was announced at the AFCA Convention Monday in Philadelphia, Pa.

Randy Johnson Hall Of Fame Cap To Have D-Backs Logo

PHOENIX (AP) — Randy Johnson will wear an Arizona Diamondbacks cap on his plaque in baseball's Hall of Fame.

The Hall of Fame made the announcement Friday.

Johnson had said it was out of his hands as to whether the cap would be from the Diamondbacks, from his previous team, the Seattle Mariners, or have no insignia at all.

Johnson said in a statement Friday that after thinking about the issue and conferring with Hall of Fame representatives, they came to the decision that "the Diamondbacks logo on my Hall of Fame plaque makes the most sense."

Johnson had his biggest success with Arizona, winning four consecutive Cy Young Awards and a World Series title.

The Diamondbacks announced Friday that the team will retire Johnson's No. 51 in a ceremony on Aug. 8.

Offering a broad range of services, supports, and expertise to help people with mild to significant disabilities reach their fullest potential.
Better Together. On April 1, 2014, Children's Care Hospital & School and South Dakota Achieve joined to form LifeScape.
LifeScape
Creating Pathways. Improving Lives.
Sioux Falls & Rapid City
800.584.9294 • 605.444.9500 • www.LifeScapeSD.org