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Sobriety On The Waves

Officials Cracking Down On Alcohol Infractions On The Water

BY ANDREW ATWAL
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Officials from the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GF&P) are cracking down on boaters who operate their vessels while intoxicated.

"Although we have been conducting these operations for a number of years, we're giving them more publicity now," said Brandon Gust, law enforcement specialist for the GF&P.

Officials will hold operations with saturation patrols in specific areas. They will also run safety checks out on the waters across the state.

"There is an increased number of people out on the water during the summer and on the Fourth of July, so we're emphasizing alcohol awareness," Gust said. "However, we don't conduct anything different than we normally would with having these checks."

He added that the checks on the water are not like automobile sobriety checks.

"With cars, each car gets checked — and this is not like that," Gust said. "We do some checks either from seeing things out on the water or having officers in areas doing safety checks on the ramps. If we come into contact with someone that has been drinking, we'll address the issue."

He added that a typical safety check for a boat inspection is either out on the water or at a boat ramp.



KELLY HERTZ/P&D
Lewis and Clark Lake was teeming with watercraft of all makes and sizes Sunday, with the busy Fourth of July holiday looming. Officials from the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks say they are working to crack down on boat operators who are under the influence of alcohol.

WATER | PAGE 11

A Wild Ride At Irene Rodeo

Annual Event Draws Appreciative Crowd And A Lot Of Action

BY JEREMY HOECK
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IRENE — At age 75, Harold Fischer has witnessed and competed in many rodeos over his long career.

The Irene Rodeo, however, holds a special place in his heart.

"To me, this one here and the (Scottie Stampede) in Scotland are the two biggest rodeos," Fischer said Saturday night during the final session of the 21st annual rodeo hosted by the Irene Rodeo Association.

"The whole town here gets involved in it; they make it something special."

A resident of Vermillion, Fischer has competed at every Irene Rodeo since 1993. And yes, he fully embraces his standing as perhaps the oldest rider.

"If not, I'm awfully close," he joked. "They all ask me when I'm quitting, but I'm not dead yet. I'll be here for as long as I can."

Nearly 250 riders from five states (South Dakota, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska and Wisconsin) competed in 12 events — culminating with Bull Riding late Saturday night.

A number of area riders were present, and some, like Kole Wynia of Avon, found success.

Wynia, a 22-year-old who now lives in Springfield, finished first in the Saddle Bronc on Saturday night with family cheering him on from the stands.

"It's quite an honor," Wynia said. "This is almost a hometown rodeo for me. I know almost everyone around here."

Not a newcomer to the Irene Rodeo, Wynia said he still enjoys coming to the event every year.

"This is a good little one and the stock (livestock) is excellent, but the location is most of it," he said.

Proximity played a big role in bringing Trey Buffington to Irene. The 26-year-old has lived in Hurlay for one year after moving from his home town of Arkansas City, Kan.

Buffington, who was making his first ap-



JEREMY HOECK/P&D
ABOVE: Jennifer Gale of Hartford successfully lands her rope on this calf during the Ladies Breakaway Roping event on Saturday night at the 21st annual Irene Rodeo. BELOW: J.D. Struxness of Appleton, Minn., throws down this calf to rope it during the Irene Rodeo on Saturday night. To see or purchase images from this event, visit spotted.yankton.net.

pearance at the Irene Rodeo, competed in the Calf Roping and Mixed Team Roping on Saturday night.

"They really get the crowd involved, plus it's really close for us," he said. "They do a great job here."

"I've been out to Rapid City for rodeos before, and those make for long days."

Shelby Vinson, on the other hand, has experienced the Irene Rodeo for six years despite her young age of 15. The resident of Worthing competed in the Barrel Racing — on her horse, T.J. — on Saturday night.

"I really like coming here, because there are a lot of people that come to watch," Vinson said. "It's a small town, but they get huge crowds."

Among the hundreds of people in the crowd Saturday night were plenty of chil-



IRENE | PAGE 11

South Dakota Sees Mixed News In Kids Count Survey

BY ANDREW ATWAL
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According to the newest Kids Count survey, the news is mixed for children living in South Dakota in 2013.

The new study from the Annie E. Casey Foundation ranked states in several different categories for child well-being.

South Dakota ranked 18th of the 50 states overall and the state improved in the economic and health categories, but declined in the education and family and community categories.

"I think our overall rank is good, though we did drop a little but, the ranking is still good," said Carole Cochran of South Dakota Kids Count at the Beacom School of Business at USD. "I would like to see us continue to get better and raise into the top 10 eventually."

Nebraska ranks eighth overall for child well-being and is fourth in economic well-being, 17th in education, 10th in health and 15th in family and community.

Child and teen deaths in South Dakota has dropped dramatically from 2005, when the state had 49 per 100,000 child and teen deaths. This year, that number is at 39.

"Even with that substantial drop, we still rank 48th in the nation in that category," Cochran said. "So we're still deeply concerned about that."

No other state bordering South Dakota ranks that low in teenage and child deaths.

"You need to think that improving this number by 10 percent would mean nine fewer deaths," she said. "The bulk of those deaths is from unintentional injuries, which includes car crashes, and that can have a big impact on the state."

A youth and teenage driving task force was put together a few years ago that looked at all data and researched teenage

SURVEY | PAGE 11

Camel Care

Yankton's Dogs 'R' Us 4-H group held its first Pet Palooza event Saturday at the Yankton County 4-H Grounds. The event featured petting zoos, fingerprinting for youth, a dog show, an appearance by the Yankton Police K-9 unit and pet contests. Animals on site included dogs, cats, alpacas, ponies and this hungry camel, who is shown being fed by a delighted little girl. (Andrew Atwal/P&D)



Supreme Court

Term Ends With Historic Flourish

BY MARK SHERMAN
 Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A historic Supreme Court term ended with a flourish of major rulings that marked a bitter defeat for racial minorities and a groundbreaking victory for gay rights, all in the space of a day.

The justices struck down parts of two federal laws — the Voting Rights Act and the Defense of Marriage Act — that were passed with huge bipartisan majorities of Congress.

Yet only one justice at the center of this conservative-leaning court, Anthony Kennedy, was on the winning side both times. Kennedy joined the four more conservative justices on voting rights and he was with his liberal colleagues in the gay marriage case.

Just in that 24-hour span, the rulings demonstrated

two truths about the court under the leadership of Chief Justice John Roberts.

The 58-year-old lawyer who cut his teeth in the Reagan administration put to rest any questions he may have raised about his conservative credentials a year earlier when he cast the deciding vote to uphold President Barack Obama's health care overhaul.

Roberts has shown himself to be a skillful judge who can get even ideologically differing colleagues to agree on narrow rulings that help form the basis for more definitive later judgments, as happened in the voting rights case.

The chief justice sees a benefit to the court as an institution and to his longer-term goal of saying, "We

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