

OUTDOORS DIGEST

Of The Outdoors | Gary Howey

Cold Front Tips & Tricks

SD Bowhunters Convention March 7-9

RAPID — The annual South Dakota Bowhunter's, Inc. convention will be held March 7-9 at the Ramkota Convention Center in Rapid City.

The featured speaker for the convention is Tom Hoffman, who will discuss "Archery Hunting The World."

For more information, visit www.sdbi.net, or email sdbi.net@gmail.com for convention registration details.

Cabela's Celebrates Spring Great Outdoor Days March 1-2

MITCHELL — Cabela's will celebrate the beginning of the thaw by hosting Cabela's Spring Great Outdoor Days 2014 on March 1 and 2, encouraging outdoorsmen and women to shift their focus from winter to spring adventures. Among the activities will be seminars, demonstrations and interactive events for the entire family.

Cabela's will offer a full schedule of complimentary seminars and in-store demonstrations, including: Knife Sharpening, Spring Fishing on the Missouri River, Fishing Electronics, Cabela's Guidewear, Trail Cameras, Video Your Outdoor Adventure, Turkey Hunting Tactics for the Bowhunter, and Kids Casting & Boating Safety.

The local James River Valley chapter of Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation will be in-store hosting a benefit luncheon.

For additional information about Spring Great Outdoor Days and specific activities visit www.cabelas.com/MITCHELL. Cabela's is located at 601 Cabela Drive, Mitchell, SD 57301.

S.D. Sage-Grouse Plan Available For Review

PIERRE — The S.D. Game, Fish and Parks Department is offering the public the opportunity to review and provide comment on a five-year draft management plan for greater sage-grouse.

The Sage-grouse Management Plan for South Dakota 2014-2018 describes how the state proposes to manage sage-grouse in South Dakota. The draft will be available for review through March 30. Interested parties are asked to submit comments on the plan by the deadline.

To view the draft management plan, visit gfp.sd.gov/hunting/small-game-sage-grouse.aspx.

GFP will hold two public meetings to inform the public and gather additional input, as well as answer questions on sage-grouse management in the state," said Tom Kirschenmann, chief of terrestrial resources.

Both public meetings will be held in the northwest part of the state within the primary sage-grouse range in South Dakota. The meeting locations, dates and times are as follows:

Belle Fourche, March 11, First Interstate Bank (41 5th Ave.), 7 p.m.
Buffalo, March 12, Harding County School Commons Area (102 Allison St.), 7 p.m.

Please send requests for printed copies of the draft report or written comments to: Game, Fish and Parks; 523 E. Capitol Ave.; Pierre, S.D. 57501.

Fish Houses Must Be Removed by March 1st

PIERRE — South Dakota ice anglers should be aware that all fish houses, shelters, and other structures must be removed from the ice by midnight, Feb. 28. Houses may be used after Feb. 28, but must be removed from the ice daily. Houses may be used after Feb. 28, but must be removed from the ice daily.

Elk Collared in North-Central Nebraska

LINCOLN, Neb. — The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission recently placed tracking collars on 11 elk in north-central Nebraska. The collars provide real-time location data and help Game and Parks better determine populations.

Game and Parks contracted a helicopter animal capture crew to tranquilize and place GPS tracking collars and ear tags on the animals. Four elk - a bull, two cows and a female calf - were collared near the Fort Niobrara National Wildlife Refuge on Feb. 21. Later that day, one bull and six cows near Bassett were equipped with the tracking devices. The elk were shot with a tranquilizer dart and processed by the crew on location.

At Fort Niobrara, biologists are using the data to determine if there are enough elk in the area to warrant hunting on the refuge. Six elk in that region received collars by the same process in 2013.

WAC Suspends 2 Players After Postgame Brawl

BY ANNE M. PETERSON
AP Sports Writer

A wild postgame brawl following a contentious game between Utah Valley and New Mexico State highlighted the risks when fans and players collide.

The Western Athletic Conference suspended New Mexico State junior guard K.C. Ross-Miller for two games and senior forward Renaldo Dixon for one for violating the league's sportsmanship policy following its review of the melee Thursday night in Orem, Utah.

Ross-Miller hurled the ball at Utah Valley's Holton Hunsaker seconds after the

Wolverines' 66-61 victory over the Aggies. The ball hit Hunsaker — the son of Utah Valley coach Dick Hunsaker — in the leg. Some of the fans who stormed the court following the victory got caught up in the chaos and punches were thrown.

New Mexico State guard DK Eldridge was in the middle of the scrum before he was dragged away by Aggies coaches as order was restored. With the victory, the Wolverines claimed the top spot in the conference standings — their first year in the WAC.

While the brawl was touched off by Ross-Miller's actions, it sparked renewed debate about player and fan interactions, and the dangers posed when fans rush the court. It was one of several incidents involving fans and players or coaches in recent months.

Oklahoma State All-America guard Marcus Smart charged into the stands at Texas Tech on Feb. 8 and shoved a fan who called him a "piece of crap." Smart was suspended for three games and the fan later apologized.

Also in February, Oregon coach Dana Altman expressed concerns about safety after two of his staffers said an Arizona State student spit at them at halftime of a game in Tempe, Ariz. Ducks guard Jason Calliste had a verbal

confrontation with at least one student late in the first half.

The NCAA does not have national rules regarding fans rushing the court because confereing offices oversee regular season rules in basketball, including discipline. The SEC does ban the practice, imposing a \$5,000 fine on the school for the first offense, and as much as \$50,000 for subsequent infractions.

Reggie Minton, deputy executive director of the National Association of Basketball Coaches, said his organization has discussed the issue in the past and it will be taken up again at meetings in April.

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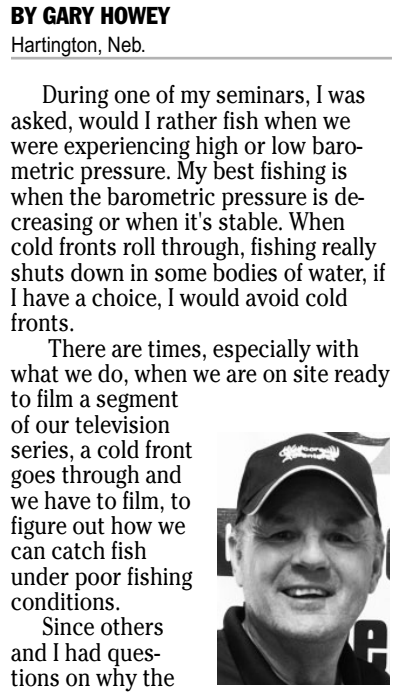
PHOTOS: CAPTAIN NORM'S
ABOVE: Braxton Caught his first Northern Pike below Gavin's Point Dam using minnows.
RIGHT: Kevin Mckee caught these crappies on Lake Thompson.



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Gary HOWEY



TEAM OUTDOORSMEN ADVENTURES PHOTO
Columnist Gary Howey is pictured with a walleye taken using livebait rigs while fishing during a cold front on Bitter Lake near Waubay, S.D.

change. Several of these are the affects the baitfish food source, the zoo plankton, the stirring up of their habitat causing changes in water clarity, water temperature change, the affect of the pressure on the fish's bladder, affecting their buoyancy and the changing light conditions.

Cold Fronts With The Pressure Rising

Cold fronts will cause the air temperatures to drop, along with the water temperatures. Since fish are cold blooded, a drop in water temperature affects their body temperature, not in the way it affects us, as fish do not feel hot or cold. It is not something that will happen quickly, as it takes time for fish to adjust to their environment. Changes caused by a cold front will affect different fish differently as well as affecting fish differently at deeper depths

As the front goes through things change in the aquatic world, with changes in the light penetration, water temperatures and the movement of their food source, causing fish to go deep until things stabilize.

When the front moves through, fish living in different bodies of water react differently. Walleyes in clear water are affected for a longer period than those

in murky water. Since walleyes are light sensitive, those in clearer water may take longer to adjust before re-suming feeding, while walleyes in murky water may not be affected as much.

If you are fishing a clear body of water and a cold front goes through, it might be a good idea to move to the river to fish, as cold fronts seem to have less effect on fish in a river than those living in a lake.

Generally, when fishing a cold front, you will want to head for deeper water, fishing closer to the bottom as fish, especially walleyes will move deeper because of the increase in light density. When this occurs, it is a good time to go with a live bait rig and lighter line; 4 to 6 pound test is a good bet, especially if you are fishing a clearer body of water.

This is especially true during the spring when the water is warm and a cold front passes through, with the air temperatures falling, cooling the water, causing the fish in the shallows to move into deeper water.

After a cold front makes its way through, it will take several days of stable weather for the fish to adjust to the change and return to their normal feeding pattern. After a cold front passes through, you will be dealing with cool tem-

peratures and bright, sunny skies, which cause the light sensitive walleyes to stay deep until things stabilize.

The exception to this occurs during the heat of the summer when a cold front goes through, air temperatures could fall a lot, lowering water temperatures, allowing fish to move up from deeper water to feed in areas with cooler water temperatures, increasing the activity of the fish and their feeding patterns.

With the return of several days of stable weather, fish will be able to get back to normal routine, back into their comfort zone, where they will find the balance of right temperature, oxygen and light penetration.

Warm Fronts With The Pressure Falling

In the early spring or the late fall, when water temperatures are cold, as warm fronts move through, water temperatures will rise, allowing walleyes to become more active, improving the bite. Walleyes will still feed during the same peak periods, but the bite will last longer, with the fish feeding more aggressively and is ma good time to try speed-trolling crankbaits.

When a warm front moves through during the middle of the summer will often move walleye into deeper water with the fish becoming more finicky, especially during the day. There will still be some aggressive walleyes during the peak fishing times, but your window for catching aggressive fish will be much smaller. Trolling crankbaits can be effective at this time, with many anglers having excellent luck using bottom bouncers and spinner rigs tipped with nightcrawlers, leeches and minnows.

Cold fronts make fishing tough and by changing your presentation, where you are fishing will help to increase your catching ability. There isn't a sure fire method allowing you to consistently catch fish when a barometric changes happen. The information found in this column, although not an exact science could help you to understand how cold fronts affect the fish.

The next time you're faced with barometric pressure changes and the dreaded fronts associated with them, understanding these changes could help you to put a few more fish in the boat.

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 airs 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 MDCO 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.

Area

From Page 7

Corn Palace.

Avon led 39-29 after three quarters, but was out-scored by 12 in the final frame.

Votaw recorded 15 points, six rebounds and five assists for the Cougars (13-9), who advance to regions next week. Michaela Frank added 15 points.

In the season-ending loss for the Lady Pirates (17-5), Chesney Nagel posted 23 points and nine rebounds, while Ariana Oorlog had 13 points and three assists. Heidi Cap recorded eight rebounds and three assists.

BURKE-SOUTH CENTRAL (13-9).....8 19 29 51
AVON (17-5).....12 26 39 49

Boys

Lennox 52, Dakota Valley 50

LENNOX — Jacob Hinker scored 13

points to guide Lennox past Dakota Valley 52-50 in regular season boys' action Friday night.

Derek DeVries added 11 points and five rebounds for the Orioles (10-10), while Brody Nelson had 10 points and six rebounds.

For the Panthers, Issac Faldmo had 20 points (on six threes) and six rebounds, while Jason Lupkes added 18 points and seven rebounds. Brody Van Ginkel dished out eight assists.

Both teams begin Region 4A action next week.

DAKOTA VALLEY.....17 29 40 50
LENNOX (10-10).....12 23 37 52

Tea Area 52, Beresford 44

BERESFORD — Gunnar Ensz scored 15 points to help lead Tea Area past Beresford 52-44 in regular season boys' action Friday night in Beresford.

Ryan Sabers scored 12 points and Tarin Smallfield grabbed 11 rebounds for the Titans (12-8), who led 26-22 at halftime. For the Watchdogs (11-9), Kory Diefendorf had 15 points and five steals, Logan Busch had 11 points and nine rebounds, and Joseph Kirkebak had 10 points. For good measure, Oliver Doeden had eight points and 10 rebounds.

Both teams meet again in region play next Monday in Tea.

TEA AREA (12-8).....11 26 37 52
BERESFORD (11-9).....7 22 34 44