

OUTDOORS DIGEST

Nielsen Fishing Tournament
Oct. 27

CROFTON, Neb. — The fifth annual Brian Nielsen Fishing Tournament will be held on Saturday, Oct. 27, at Weigand Marina near Crofton, Neb.

There will be a raffle and auction to follow at Cj's At The Lake.

For more information or to get a registration form, contact Julie at 605-664-1072 or 605-665-9522.

Habitat Conditions Key to
S.D. Pheasant Hunt

PIERRE — Many hunters will flock to South Dakota fields on Saturday for the traditional opening of the annual pheasant hunting season with optimism.

Reasons for this optimism are first, the mid-summer pheasant count estimated the statewide pheasant population to be up 18 percent from last year and second, South Dakota offers a wealth of public hunting opportunities. There are more than 1.2 million acres of Walk-In Areas; 294,000 acres of state-owned Game Production Areas; and 150,000 acres of federal Waterfowl Production Areas available to hunters in the state.

In addition, the Game, Fish and Parks Department has expanded its cooperative efforts with private landowners and the US Department of Agriculture to provide wildlife habitat and public hunting opportunities on nearly 70,000 acres in the James River valley that are enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program.

"The number of birds in different areas of the state is closely linked to the quantity and quality of habitat found in a local area" said Tom Kirschenmann, GFP chief of wildlife and habitat programs.

Drought also had a direct impact on farmers and ranchers who rely on the land to make a living. To help mitigate a shortage of livestock forage, producers were allowed to cut hay and graze livestock on many acres in the Conservation Reserve Program.

On the flip side, there is a benefit from the dry conditions that persist across most of the state: With crop harvesting nearing 90 percent complete, there are fewer places for wily roosters to hide.

Hunters Cautioned On Fire
Danger

PIERRE — South Dakota hunters should be mindful that fire danger persists across the state, and safety measures need to be taken to help prevent wildfires this opening weekend of the pheasant season.

"We have had a particularly dry year in our state, and hunters will find high fire danger conditions just about anywhere they go," said Emmett Keyser, assistant director for the Game, Fish and Parks Wildlife Division.

Keyser said there are several steps hunters should take to help prevent wild fires.

"Park your vehicle in a safe spot that is clear of any vegetation and then walk," Keyser said. "Cover can be tall and tinder-dry, capable of igniting from the heat of the undercarriage of a vehicle. Park your vehicle in a safe spot, and exercise extreme caution wherever you might drive."

Besides normal hunting equipment, hunters should include some basic fire prevention equipment: an extra container of water, fire extinguisher, and fire suppression equipment, such as a shovel or flappers.

Hunters should also report fires. Keyser noted that South Dakota has a very good record of fire safety during hunting seasons.

"The key to fire safety is awareness," he said. "Hunters need to use common sense and be aware of the potential for wildfires no matter what the conditions. A responsible person's actions can make a huge difference in protecting both property and wildlife resources."

GFP Commission Proposes
Expanded Pike, Catfish
Spearing

DEADWOOD — The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission is proposing rules changes in areas open to spearing of northern pike and channel catfish.

The changes would allow northern pike to be taken by underwater spearing, dark-house spearing and archery on all inland waters of the state, except those waters actively managed for muskies.

"There are currently limited opportunities to participate in dark-house spearing for northern pike throughout South Dakota," said Geno Adams, GFP fisheries program administrator. "This proposal gives pike spears additional opportunities to take advantage of pike populations around the state during both the open-water and ice periods of the year, without negatively impacting our resources."

Opportunities to spear channel catfish would also increase under a commission proposal that would open areas to catfish spearing on the Missouri River below Oahe, Big Bend, and Ft. Randall dams, which are currently closed to all game-fish spearing. Channel catfish can already be taken year-round by spears and archers without limits on the inland waters of the Missouri River in South Dakota, except for the designated areas below dams that are closed to spearing and archery of all game fish.

The GFP Commission proposal also includes lengthening the game-fish spearing season from the current June 15 through Feb. 29 to June 15 through March 15. Season dates for northern pike spearing would match the proposed game-fish season dates. The date after which ice shacks may not be left overnight on the ice will remain unchanged at Feb. 29, but portable shacks could still be used until March 15 if removed from the ice daily.

To comment on the spearing proposals, email wildinfo@state.sd.us. Include your complete name and physical address to be part of the public record. The commission will take public comment at its Nov. 1 meeting at Camp Lakodia near Madison. The public forum portion of the meeting will begin at 2 p.m. CDT.

OF THE OUTDOORS | GARY HOWEY

This Is The Time For Big Fish

BY GARY HOWEY
Hartington, Neb.

It may not seem like it right now, but it's mid-October and winter may not be far away.

The Indian summer and the warmer daytime temperatures won't last long and by the time many of you read this column, I'm sure that the temperatures may have begun to drop.

When the weather is like this, it makes late season fishing a joy, as you don't have to hit the water with three layers of heavy clothing. If you're an early morning or late afternoon angler, it would be smart to bring along an extra sweatshirt or jacket.

This is the time of the year when you're able to find the larger concentrations of walleye and sauger feeding heavily on the remaining baitfish. Generally these can be found in the warmer water, in preparation for their move into the deeper water where the baitfish will stack up to spend the winter that will eventually show up.

It's during the late fall when game fish will go after larger baits and when a larger live bait really produces.

Finding the schools of walleye and sauger really isn't all that difficult this time of the year! Look for what they're feeding on, it may be shallow where the water temps are warmer or in some of the deepest water located on the lake or river.

Unless something changes drastically, once you've located them, you should be able to come back year after year and find them in about the same areas. As long as the baitfish are in the general area, the predator fish like the walleye and sauger won't be far behind.

Bait presentations during this time of the year will generally be some sort of a live bait rig depending on the depth that the fish are located at.

If you find the fish in the 20-foot range,



PHOTO: TEAM OUTDOORSMEN ADVENTURES
Travis Howell of Hartington, Neb., is pictured with a nice late season walleye taken from Lewis & Clark Lake using the methods mentioned by columnist Gary Howey.

you can still take them on a Lindy rig tipped with a large minnow or chub. You'll want to use a heavier slip weight in order to get into the fish quickly. The bite this time of year might last only a short period of time, so you won't want to waste any time getting into the zone. You'll find the active walleye and sauger right off the bottom.

If your walleye are located in deeper water, 30-40 or 50 feet, you'll probably want to use a heavier jig tipped with a chub or several minnows.

As I mentioned before, you'll want to get down quickly, a heavier 3/8-ounce jig or larger can be the ticket. If you're using lighter line and have fished a jig quite a bit, you can get by with a 1/4-ounce jig.

This time of the year, color may not

make much of a difference, especially in the deeper or dirty water as once the sunlight can no longer penetrate, everything pretty much turns black.

But, I still go by the old rule of thumb that any florescent color is good because florescent colors don't disappear as quickly in water as do standard colors. As far as I'm concerned any florescent color is good as long as it has some chartreuse in it.

Since I like to tip the odds in my favor every chance I get, I'll use jigs and bodies that have several colors. I like the combination color jig heads that have florescent chartreuse, orange and green and I prefer a chartreuse or multi colored grub body.

If color does make a difference, I'm going to have a bunch of them down there be-

Nebraska

From Page 8

Hans Epps (16:52.2) and Warren Dexter (17:01.1).

"Nebraska Christian ran the perfect race today," Arens said.

Crofton was led by junior Drew Eskins, who placed 15th in 17:41.9, claiming the final individual medal. Sophomore Cole Steffen finished 25th (18:05.1), seniors Henry Goeden and Mathew Guenther finished 34th (18:12.0) and 36th (18:12.1) to complete the Warrior scoring. Also for CHS, sophomore Joshua

Goeden finished 94th (20:07.9) and sophomore Lane Weidner finished 103rd (20:31.4).

"Our guys ran heads-up the whole way. They left it all out on the course today," Arens said. "They were passing guys throughout the race."

Laurel-Concord-Coleridge freshman Aaron Haahr finished less than 20 seconds off the awards stand, placing 21st in 18:00.5. He was the second freshman across the finish line in the race.

Randolph senior Justin Korth placed 30th in 18:08.5, with fellow senior Nick Schmit placing 51st in 18:28.4.

State

From Page 9

"They always kinda come around for state," she said. "We've had kids got to the chiropractor three times a day to make sure they're ready for state."

The squad comes into state physically ready for state, but need to be emotionally ready as well.

"One of things that have been difficult to overcome this year has been our confidence," said YHS cheer co-coach Angie Luken. "They know how to execute our routine, but their facial expressions show they are scared. We've talked about it, and we hope to get beyond that."

State comes three weeks earlier this season. In the past five seasons, the state cheer and dance competition was held around the same time as the state football finals on the second weekend of November. One of the things the condensed schedule took away was the opportunities to take a deep breath and relax, according to Luken.

"We did squeeze it in, but we just had one day," she said. "Last year we had two or three. If there's a negative to the shorter season, it's that we don't have a week off to recharge our batteries."

Competition begins at noon at the Watertown Civic Arena.

You can follow James D. Cimbrek on Twitter at twitter.com/ace-man904

Volleyball

From Page 9

posted eight kills and 14 digs to lead the way. Brooke McCluskey added 10 digs.

EPJ, 17-8, travels to Vermillion on Thursday. Ponca, 9-14, plays Bancroft-Rosalie in the opening round of the Lewis & Clark Conference Tournament on Tuesday.

PONCA (17-8).....19 9 14
ELK POINT-JEFFERSON (17-8).....25 25 25

Marion 3,
McCook Cent.-Montrose 0

MARION — With 18 assists, 13 digs, three kills and one ace Katherine Luke led Marion in a win against McCook Central-Montrose in Friday night volleyball action 25-20, 25-17, 27-25.

Devin Nelson recorded 18 assists, 17 digs, one ace, one kill and one block, and Ashley Rosenwald-Muller had 12 kills, 10 digs and two aces.

For McCook Central-Montrose, Anna Olinger had 11 kills, seven digs and one ace, while Brianna Punter had 12 digs. Dana Kiren also had nine digs and six assists.

Marion will travel to Freeman on Monday, and McCook Central will hit the road to face Montrose.

MCCOOK CENTRAL-MONTROSE (8-15).....20 17 25
MARION (22-4).....25 25 27

Harrisburg 3, Lennox 0

LENNOX — Harrisburg swept Lennox on Friday night 25-16, 25-20 and 25-16 in Lennox.

Brittany Blakney led the Tigers with 10 kills, 10 digs and five aces.

For the Orioles, Megan Stewart recorded eight digs. Harrisburg hosts Vermillion on

Monday while Lennox travels to Sioux Falls on Monday to battle Sioux Falls Christian.

HARRISBURG.....25 25 25
LENNOX.....16 20 16

Elkton Lake-Benton 3,
Iroquois 0

ELKTON — Lacey Lynn put up eight kills, two, six digs and two aces to lead Elkton Lake-Benton in a win against Iroquois in Friday night volleyball action in Elkton.

Gabby Kampmann had six kills, four aces and five digs for the night, and Julia Fargun recorded five kills, three aces and two digs. For Iroquois, Amber Jacobs had seven digs and two kills, while Britany Moeller made three kills and four digs.

Elkton Lake-Benton will face West Central on Thursday, and Iroquois will play

IROQUOIS (1-26).....11 8 15
ELKTON LAKE-BENTON (25-4).....25 25 25

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Discussing ... United States Foreign Policy and the Technological Revolution

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