

Outdoors Briefs: S.D. Big Game Tags Available

PIERRE — The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department is in the process of completing big game license lottery drawings for the 2011 hunting seasons, and licenses are still available for purchase.

The first drawing for the East River Deer season is now complete and applications are being accepted, both online and through the mail, for the second drawing.

South Dakota residents who have not already drawn an East River Deer license may apply for one license in this drawing. The deadline for submitting applications through the mail is Oct. 7, and the online application deadline is Tuesday, Oct. 11, at 8 a.m. Central Time.

The second drawing for East River deer will be completed on Oct. 14 and the third application period for unsold licenses will be opened to both residents and non-residents.

Unsold licenses are available on a first-come, first-served basis for the West River Deer, Antelope (beginning Sept. 16), and Fall Turkey seasons. West River Deer and Antelope licenses are available to both residents and nonresidents, and individuals may purchase an unlimited number of licenses. Fall Turkey licenses are available to residents and nonresidents to a maximum of five per person.

Information on areas with unsold licenses is available online at <http://gtp.sd.gov/hunting/licenses/leftover/default.aspx>.

Sight-In Days To Be Held At Near Yankton

The Yankton Sharpshooters will be holding our annual public Sight-in Days on Sunday, Sept. 18 and Sunday, Oct. 9.

If you have a firearm that needs to be sighted in for the upcoming hunting seasons, come out to the range located five miles west of Wal-Mart on Highway 50 and 2 1/2 miles north on the Ulica oil road. Benches, rests and targets are provided.

Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days. See a range officer before removing your guns from your vehicle.

Iowa Deer Seasons Opened This Week

CHARITON, Iowa (AP) — Iowa's first two deer hunting seasons open Saturday and allow participants to hunt deer in a comfortable setting.

The seasons are for youth and disabled hunters. Tom Litchfield is a state deer biologist for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. He says the seasons allow young and disabled hunters to hunt deer in favorable conditions, compared to the December shotgun seasons.

Each youth hunter must be accompanied by an adult mentor who has a valid hunting license and has paid the habitat fee.

The youth and disabled hunter seasons close Oct. 2.

OF THE OUTDOORS | GARY HOWEY

Early Goose Season: A Different Hunt

BY GARY HOWEY
Hartington, Neb.

I remember several years ago, we were hunkered down adjacent to a harvested winter wheat field waiting first light, I thought to myself, who'd have thought that we'd be hunting geese in short sleeve shirts while fighting off mosquitoes.

It was the first week of the early Canada goose season in South Dakota, I, one of our Team Outdoorsmen Adventures members, our friends and our cameraman waited impatiently for the geese that on this day to arrive.

I thought to myself, how different this type of hunting was. On most goose hunts, we'd be bundled up in heavy camouflage or tucked down in a heated boat or blind.

Not during this season as the local radio station was predicting 90-degree weather today.

The logic behind the early season that had started the week-end before was to help reduce the huge population of local geese that now call this part of South Dakota home.

The geese had did very well in the area, almost too well as they now were invading golf courses, city parks, yards and making a pest of themselves.

Nothing is prettier than a flock of giant Canada's as they wing their way across the sky, but when they're pulling up your lawn or golf course greens one piece of grass at a time and then leaving very large deposit on it, their beautiful part fades rather quickly.

Because of the huge populations of birds, several states including South Dakota have initiated the early season, hoping to knock the population down to a manageable level.

There are several things that set the early season apart from the regular goose season!

Since it's so warm, the geese won't need to feed like they would in the colder months. Which can mean that they might set on the water longer, going out to feed only once during the day, making their flight patterns hard to predict.

Another is the number of decoys you'll need to put out. During the regular season, it's not uncommon to set out a spread with a hundred decoys.

Not so in during the early season and the reason for this is easy to explain.

In the early fall, the geese haven't gathered up into their large migrating flocks, so, the geese flying around are generally the smaller family groups or a



Early season goose hunters (from left) Cazdin, Calvin and James Christensen, Reuben Lammers and Casey Christensen of Hartington, Neb., with one of the early season Canada Geese they took near Utica, during the early Canada goose season.

PHOTO: CODY CHRISTENSEN

combination of a couple of families, and this I why a small group (25 to 40) Dakota Decoys work well during the early season.

Another thing that is quite different during the early season is the amount of calling needed to bring the geese in. We've found that during the early season, if the geese are coming your way an occasional honk is all that's needed to attract them.

Much of the early season hunting is done out of lay down or coffin blinds placed in harvested wheat or crop fields. These, along with your decoys need to blend into the terrain and need to be glare proof. It's a good idea and recommended by the manufacturers that you rub mud over the canvas of your blind to cut down on the glare.

This is also an excellent idea for decoys, as some of their shiny surfaces will cause geese to flare.

You'll also want to shove sticks, stalks and whatever other type of field debris that's available into the straps on the blind making them blend into the terrain of the land you're hunting.

The key to any waterfowl hunting in the field is scouting because ducks and geese like us are creatures of habit and once they've found a good field, will return to it unless they are blown out or they eaten all of the available food.

As with any type of hunting, one day can be a hundred and ten per cent different from the next, with the weather can be your best friend or your worst enemy! A calm day is the worst thing a waterfowl hunter wants to see since geese land into the wind. With no wind, the geese can come in from any direction. Another

thing that drives waterfowl hunters up the wall would be to have the wind change directions once or twice during the hunt as then you're going to need to relocate your blinds and decoys, taking away from valuable hunting time.

A hurricane force winds isn't needed, but a 15 to 20 mile per hour wind can mean the difference between a good hunt or just a day lying out in the filed watching the sunrise and set.

Well, that's what happened to us the first morning of the hunt, as we sat in the field waiting for the geese while watching hundreds of ducks buzz our goose decoys.

The following day it would be different, the wind came up strong and we'd spent the afternoon before this hunt scouting the birds, which made day two a lot different.

We'd located a small wheat field that was holding a lot of birds and gotten permission to hunt it the following day.

The following morning morning, six hunters along with my cameraman headed north to finish out our two-day hunt.

After camouflaging our blinds and using them to shorten up the field, which forced the geese to land in front of us, we laid out our spread of 35 Dakota Decoys and settled in.

No sooner had we climbed into our blinds, one of our hunters' yelled geese coming in from the west!

Just a few minutes after legal shooting time the first flock could be seen lifting off the slough and winging our way. We called softly as the group of fifteen geese approached and as they set their wings to land, we popped out of the blinds and came up shooting.

As they departed, seven geese lay on the ground and as we frantically tried to retrieve the fallen geese, the next flock came in, catching several of our group outside the blinds. Flock after flock glided into the field and in less than an hour we'd filled all six of our five bird limits and after switching places with my cameraman, he quickly filled his limit also.

Thirty-five geese in less than an hour is one great hunt, and it all came together when late season tactics were altered to fit an early season hunt.

With the wet conditions we've had this year, goose numbers are excellent and you'll find a lot more Canada geese in South Dakota with this being the reason for early season hunters being allowed to take 8 birds a day.

The South Dakota early Canada goose season for both resident and non-residents opened Sept. 3 and runs through Sept. 30, 2011 with an eight bird a day limit and a possession limit of 16.

Cornhuskers will have to go north to the Dakotas in order to hunt early Canada geese as in 2011 there will be no early season.

Early season Canada Goose season is a great way to not only help bring the huge Canada Goose population into check, it's a great opportunity for hunters to do some hunting before winter sets in.

Gary Howey, Hartington, Neb., is the President of Outdoorsmen Productions LLC. His Outdoorsmen Adventures television series can be seen on FOX throughout the upper Midwest. For more information on the outdoors, go to www.outdoorsmenadventures.com.

Gazelles Second, Bucks Third At Norfolk Inv.

NORFOLK, Neb. — The Yankton Gazelles took second and the Bucks finished third at the Norfolk Cross Country Invitational on Friday in Norfolk, Neb.

Millard West beat Yankton 35-53 for first place in the girls' division and edged Papillion-La Vista South 61-63 for the boys' team title.

Yankton went 2-3 in the varsity girls' race, with Jenna Grossenburg second (15:52) and Whitlee Larson third (15:58). Annie Kruse finished 10th (16:34) for the Gazelles, Savannah Woods was 14th (16:52) and Ashtyn Haak took 24th (17:23).

In the boys' race, Yankton's top finisher was Kipp Kinsley in fifth

place at 16:59. Ryan Olson crossed the finish line in 15th place (17:35), while Brice Cowman was 16th (17:36), Jacob Bies was 26th (18:01), Justin Grode took 41st (18:24) and Logan Smith was 48th (18:45).

Vermillion Inv.

VERMILLION — Bishop Heelan, a strong cross country school in Sioux City, Iowa, swept the team titles at the Vermillion Invitational on Friday afternoon at Don Baker Course in Vermillion.

Bishop Heelan won the girls' title with 10 total points, led by the top seven finishers. Carson Leiting was the overall champion, in a clocking of 15:49.55.

Ethan Parkston was second at 42 points, with Vermillion fourth at 55.

In the boys' division, Bishop Heelan was first with 14 points, with Ethan Parkston third (54) and Vermillion fourth

(59). South Sioux City's Moti Abdissa was the individual champion at 17:23.47, with Bishop Heelan taking the next four places.

O'Neill Invitational

O'NEILL, Neb. — The Crofton Warriors Girls' Cross Country team cruised to a huge win at the O'Neill Invitational on Friday.

Crofton had six girls place in the top nine, including the top three finishers of the meet. Only four of the runners are counted for the team score, which ended at 12 points for Crofton. West Holt finished in second place with 62 points, 50 points behind Crofton, and Ainsworth finished in third with 66 points. Danielle Riesberg finished first overall, with Tiffany Tramp and Kendy Kube following close behind to take second and third.

On the boys' side Ainsworth took first place, narrowly beating Pierce by one point. Crofton finished third place, ten points behind Pierce. Austin Hamm of Bloomfield was the overall winner of the event. Brett Pacha of West Holt finished second and Myles Sudbeck of Pierce finished third.

Football

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rushing touchdowns and Alec Fuelberth ran for 77 yards. Reece Pedersen made 21 tackles on defense.

Next Friday, Hartington travels to Osmond.

BANCROFT-ROSALIE (2-1).....0 8 22 8 — 38
HARTINGTON (2-1).....6 8 0 8 — 22

Canistota 48, Hanson 0

ALEXANDRIA — Cody Bunger ran for 256 yards and scored a touchdown in three different ways as top-ranked Canistota routed No. 3 Hanson 48-0 in Friday night's Class 9A showdown in Alexandria.

Bunger rushed for three touchdowns, threw a 41-yard touchdown pass to Trevor Schroeder and returned an interception 48 yards for another score.

Nick Hofer scored the final touchdown for Canistota (3-0) on a 40-yard run.

In all, the Hawks — who led 36-0 at halftime — rushed for 343 yards.

CANISTOTA (3-0).....8 28 0 12 — 48
HANSON (2-2).....0 0 0 0 — 0

Tri-Valley 29, Flandreau 13

COLTON — The battle between top-5 Class 11B teams turned into a one-sided affair in the second half, as second-ranked Tri-Valley beat third-ranked Flandreau 29-13 on Friday night in Colton.

Great Page rushed for two touchdowns and passed for another as Tri-Valley (4-0) out-scored Flandreau 14-0 in the second half.

Andrew Buchmann added 86 rushing yards and a touchdown in the win.

For Flandreau (3-1), Joe Parsley rushed for 83 yards and a score, and also threw a 44-yard touchdown pass to Nic Behrens.

Tri-Valley visits top-ranked Class 11A Dell Rapids next week and Flandreau is off until Sept. 30.

FLANDREAU (3-1).....6 7 0 0 — 13
TRI-VALLEY (4-0).....8 7 6 8 — 29

Bridgewater-Emery-Ethan 52, Mount Vernon 14

MT. VERNON — Bridgewater-Emery-Ethan ran for 486 total yards on their way to a big win over Mount Vernon on Friday night. B-E-E got three touchdowns apiece from Kendall Lindeman and Matt Huber on their way to a 52-14 win.

Lindeman ran for 235 yards on 11 carries and Huber ran for 196 yards on six carries. Anthony Huber led the defense for B-E-E with 13 tackles, and Ryan Hanks followed closely with 10 tackles.

Mount Vernon's Kody Weiss ran for 141 yards on 29 carries, and scored both of Mt. Vernon's touchdowns. Cam Delmer ran for 111 yards on 19 carries.

B-E-E faces Hanson on Sept. 23 in Ethan. Mt Vernon will take on Canistota in Canistota on Sept. 23.

BRIDGEWATER-EMERY-ETHAN (2-1).....16 14 14 7 — 52
MOUNT VERNON (2-2).....8 6 0 0 — 14

Volleyball: LHNE Tops Cedar To Stay Unbeaten

NORFOLK, Neb. — Lutheran High Northeast remained unbeaten with a 25-12, 25-14, 22-25, 25-15 victory over Hartington Cedar Catholic in Mid-State Conference volleyball action Thursday.

Lexi Steffen had 14 kills and two blocks, and Siera Becker had seven kills and a team-best 15 digs for Cedar Catholic. Emily Schrepp had 27 assists and 10 digs. Kallie Leise had 11 digs, Kate Dickes had 10 digs and Karly Noecker had two blocks for the Trojans.

Cedar Catholic, 10-4, plays in the Stanton Tournament today (Saturday).

HARTINGTON CEDAR CATHOLIC (10-4).....12 14 25 15
LUTHERAN HIGH NORTHEAST (14-0).....25 25 22 25

McCook Central-Montrose 3, Menno 1

SALEM — The McCook Central-Montrose Fighting Cougars were able to put away the Menno Wolves Thursday night in Salem 25-10, 25-11, 22-25, 25-13.

The Fighting Cougars were led by Sierra Miles with 11 kills and Anna Olinger with eight kills. Stephanie Huemler had a big night with 24 set assists and seven ace serves. Dana Kirby also settled and served well as she had 14 set assists and four ace serves.

Menno was led by Shelby Huber's five kills. Katelyn Kotalk had four kills and nine digs.

Menno will now look forward to their next match, a home match against Viborg-Hurley on Sept. 19. McCook Central-Montrose will host Flandreau on Sept. 20 in Montrose.

MENNO (1-9).....10 11 25 13
MCCOOK CENTRAL-MONTROSE (5-7).....25 25 22 25

Winside 3, Bloomfield 0

WINSIDE, Neb. — Winside rolled past Bloomfield with a 25-14, 25-20, 25-12 victory in Nebraska girls' volleyball action on Thursday.

Bloomfield was led by Rebecca Broders, who had 26 digs, three kills, one block, and one ace. Autumn Luger backed up 23 digs, five kills, one block, and one ace. Kylie Abbenhaus posted 20 digs, three kills, and one block. Lexi Hauger had 17 digs, while Emmalee Johnson added 11 digs, five assists, and one ace.

Winside moves to 11-4 overall, and travels to Wausa on Tuesday.

day. Bloomfield drops to 3-6 on the season, and travels to Hartington on Tuesday.

BLOOMFIELD (3-6).....14 20 12
WINSIDE (11-4).....25 25 25 25

Allen 3, Emerson-Hubbard 0

ALLEN, Neb. — Allen held Emerson to three sets in their 25-18, 25-11, 25-7 victory on Thursday in Nebraska high school volleyball action.

Allen was led by Brittany Sullivan, who smashed 12 kills and had 21 digs. Lindsay Jones posted 10 kills, seven digs, and three blocks. Rachel Finnegan had 16 digs, four kills, and four aces. Hannah Finnegan assisted 25 times, while Vanessa Klug posted four digs and five aces. Morgan Bathke added eight digs.

Allen moves to 7-4 for the season, and travels to Newcastle on Tuesday. Emerson-Hubbard drops to 0-7 overall and hosts Poncho on Tuesday.

Allen claimed victory in both the JV match 25-10, 25-13, and the C-match 21-7, 21-9 on the night.

EMERSON-HUBBARD.....18 11 7

ALLEN.....25 25 25

Gayville-Volin 3, Freeman Academy 0

FREEMAN — The Gayville-Volin Raiders put away the Freeman Academy Bobcats in three sets to claim a 25-14, 25-19, 25-12 victory in high school volleyball action on Thursday.

The Raiders were led by Maggie Bertrand, who had seven kills, three digs, and two aces. Nicole Guy backed up five kills and three digs. Natalie Harkness posted 10 digs and seven set assists. Vanessa Ryken had 12 digs, six set assists, and four kills, while Kella Barta added six digs and five aces.

Statistics for Freeman Academy were unavailable. Gayville-Volin improves to 1-6 on the season, and hosts Canistota on Tuesday. Freeman Academy drops to 0-5 overall, and travels to Alcester to take on Alcester-Hudson on Monday.

FREEMAN ACADEMY (0-5).....14 19 12
GAYVILLE-VOLIN (1-6).....25 25 25

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