

Lake

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He said there are plans to go to the lake later in the fall to check fish sizes and sample for any unwanted species such as Asian carp later in the fall.

Schuckman said all of this means a good fishing forecast for the near future.

"I think it's going to get better as we go forward," he said. "As these fish start to get some size on them — they're still going to grow real good — next summer, people are going to be able to go out there and catch-and-release large-mouth bass. Maybe towards the end of next summer, you're going to see some of them pushing towards that 15-inch minimum size limit range. By this time next

year you're definitely going to see bluegill, probably seven and a half to eight inches long. It'll be a couple of years yet for those crappie to get some size on them, but everything's developing right on track."

He added that walleye will also take a few years to reach maturity.

Schuckman said they're happy overall with how the year since the renovation has progressed.

"We're real pleased with it," he said. "(We) appreciate the patience of people. I think, as everyone can see, it was really a good thing for that lake and we're happy with the way it turned out and looking forward to people having some good fishing in that lake for years to come."

Follow @RobNielsen-PandD on Twitter.

Award

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there on stage and I thought that if I tried to read the letter, I would start crying," Plautz said. "So my daughter and I put together a video."

The video was a conglomeration of all the things that the crew had done throughout the year that went beyond expectations.

In March 2014, when Yankton's Colonial Inn Motel burned down, Pizza Ranch employees opened the doors to offer pizza, chicken and coffee to the firefighters. After a seven-hour battle into the early hours of the morning, the food and drinks were a welcome relief from the heat of the fire and the cold of the weather. The ranch's employees worked through the night on a volunteer basis.

"You expect it out of me or the other assistant managers, but you don't expect a high school kid to step up everywhere and really put it all in," Plautz said.

In July 2014, one of the team's employees became a U.S. citizen. The entire staff threw him a surprise party and brought him patriotic-themed presents for the occasion.

"We are very family based here," Plautz said. "All my kids and my husband work here. When someone comes on to work as a new crew member, they just become the baby of the family."

One of their employees passed away last year. The employee's daughter, who also works at the ranch, was given support by each

member of the crew who rallied together in a time of crisis.

They also had two employees who were away from work for a time due to injury and surgery. Colleagues picked up the extra hours, and the staff also visited these employees, brought food and helped do house/yard work.

"Throughout the whole thing, every time you would throw in a different stone, we never faltered," Plautz said. "The more oiled we became as a team, the better the store ran and everyone was working together for a common purpose."

In addition to the trip to the corporate conference and a large team plaque, each member of Yankton's Pizza Ranch staff received a \$150 gift certificate to Nike ID to make their own custom pair of Nike shoes.

The other 23 members who were not able to travel to Wisconsin to accept the award were given a trip to Wild Water West waterpark in Sioux Falls, courtesy of Plautz.

With six of their members returning to school for the fall semester, Plautz hopes that this award will encourage future success with her new employees.

"The kids that are still here, when they hear about it, they really want to be a part of that good level of teamwork," Plautz said. "Having something like that to look at gives them the extra push that they need to achieve and excel at that level."

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Vermillion

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kids a little more with the geography of the river."

The website, sites.google.com/site/wildnscenicmissouririver, will hopefully become not only an informative site but also a link for teachers to bring river education into the classroom according to Freeman.

Teachers themselves received instruction at the River Appreciation Day event.

"Anne Lewis from the Discovery Center is doing continuing education on outdoor education with all the teachers here," Freeman said. "She has two different sessions with them where they get continuing ed credit."

Bringing an appreciation of the river into the classroom will hopefully be a

result.

"We want the teachers then to follow up with this with their classrooms," Freeman said. "The other thing that Anne does that we've taken part in is Water Quality monitoring. There's a water quality monitoring day; I think it's at the end of September that we have done with one class. It would be great if the teachers did that on their own with the classrooms — whatever connections we can do with the teachers to figure out how to incorporate this into the school day. Environmental science isn't just geology. We're teaching them safety, we're teaching them boats."

According to Freeman, becoming familiar with the river and its ways increases enjoyment and decreases the risk of accidents.

"This is a stretch of water even back then to be leery of," Freeman said. "It is not a friendly river but it's not a river to be afraid of either.

We're going to be on the river with kayaks to show them it's a great place to be on the river, you just have to respect it though. I always have a life jacket on because it's more fun."

Fun but also an important safety measure, according to Freeman.

"Here you have currents, you have hidden sand bars that drop off that change the current," she said. "This is a crazy river but it's also really fun to be on. Harry will take his paddle board out later and show them you can paddle board on this river. You can kayak, you can sail. That's the whole idea of the day: to show these kids the resource they have in their backyard."

For more information, visit the South Dakota Missouri River website at sites.google.com/site/wildnscenicmissouririver.

Police ID 2 Men Found Fatally Shot

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Police had identified two men found fatally shot in a gravel alley behind a north Omaha home.

According to written news release by Omaha police, 58-year-old David Cooper and 42-year-old Kevin Pace were killed. Police say the men were shot around 7 p.m. Thursday, and officers responding to the scene found them in the alley a few minutes later. Medics were called to the scene, but attempts to resuscitate the pair were unsuccessful. They were pronounced dead at the scene.

Police have not announced any arrests in the case.

Kooser

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tenure as U.S. poet laureate. Reese is happy to have Kooser back for a second time as part of the Great Plains Writers Tour.

"Ted writes for the guy in the back of the crowd whose wife dragged him to a poetry reading," Reese said. "He has a great gift of capturing everyday things that most of us overlook. His poetry is authentic and speaks to everyday people. My students love to read his work. I love to teach it and read it myself. It's a reminder of why we come to poetry again and again at pivotal times in our life."

Kooser has been writing poems since his youth. He continued writing throughout his life while also working for 35 years in the insurance business where he eventually became vice president of public relations

for Lincoln Benefit Life. Balancing the job he liked with the job he loved wasn't as difficult as it may seem.

"I have known other writers who were afraid that if they were found out by their supervisors, they (the supervisors) would think that the employee wasn't giving 100 percent to the job," said Kooser in a previous interview. "But I was never troubled by that, and though some of the people with whom I worked may have thought me peculiar, no one ever told me that I needed to stop writing and be a more traditional employee."

Of course, I suppose they must have suspected that my first love was writing and the job came second. But in many instances, I think some of them admired that. They, too, would have liked to have interesting lives outside their work. We conspired in that sense; they left me alone and I didn't tell the bosses that some of them were conducting private business on company time.

the hazards of agricultural chemicals.' But if I happen to be writing about something, perhaps describing a flower, my ideas about ag chemicals might show up."

As for new poets, Kooser encourages them to be aware of what's occurring around them and to learn as much as they can — in short, read.

"We learn about writing from what we read," said Kooser in a previous interview. "I ask my students to read a hundred poems for every one they try to write — not that they'll do that. But, again, we learn to write by reading. We learn as much from the poems we don't like as the ones we do like."

Nurturing young talent while working on his own writing is a win-win for Kooser.

"I like the contact with young writers, and I like helping them improve their work," he said.

Follow @ReillyBiel on Twitter.

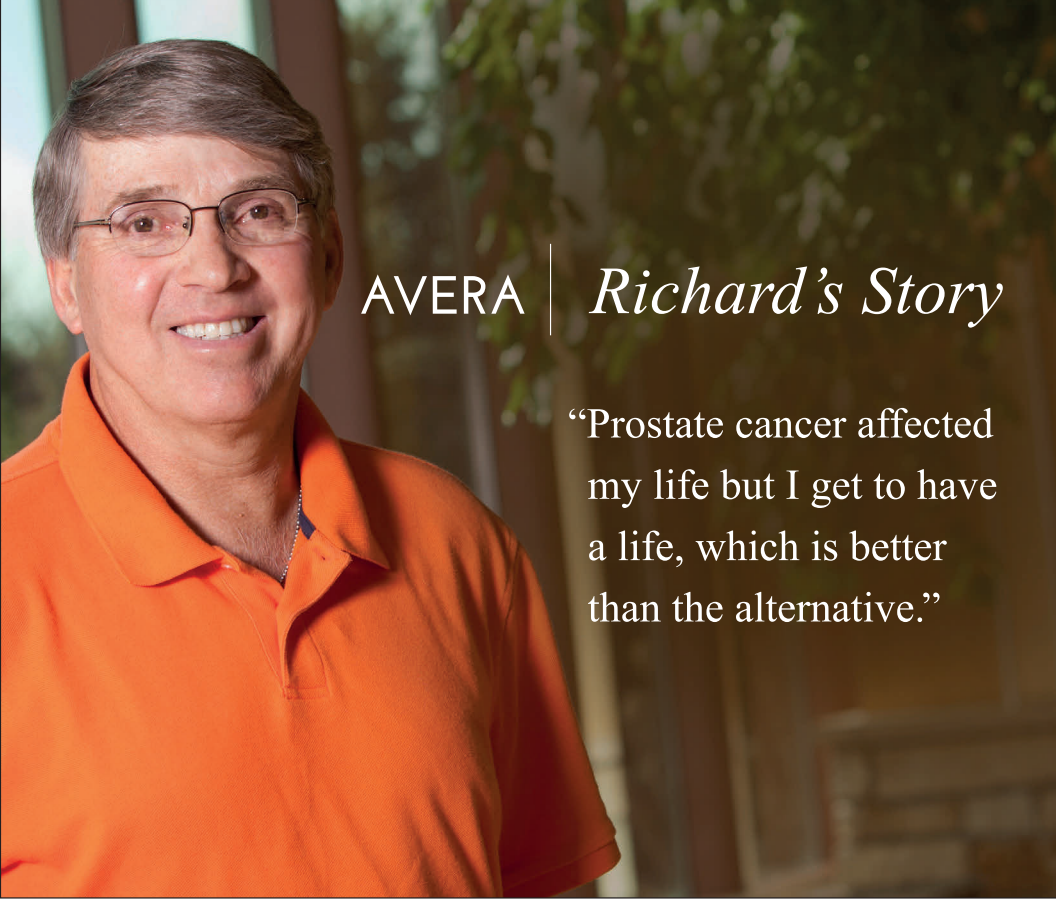
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