

REDISCOVERING
THE LOST REGION

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Midwestern history ◀

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Sales decline 25,000 for pheasant licenses

By BOB MERCER
STATE CAPITOL BUREAU

HURON — Sales are down significantly for licenses that can be used for hunting pheasants in South Dakota, the state Game, Fish and Parks Commission learned Thursday.

Through Nov. 25 hunters purchased approximately 7,000 fewer resident small-game licenses; 800 fewer resident youth small-game; 17,000 fewer non-resident small-game; and about 750 fewer non-resident youth small-game.

There were small drops in combination licenses and youth combination licenses bought by residents, but those were offset by higher sales of combination licenses to senior citizens.

The decreases ranged from 14 to 26 percent depending on the type.

“Not surprising,” GFP director of administration Chris Petersen told commissioners.

There were small drops in combination licenses and youth combination licenses bought by residents, but those were offset by higher sales of combination licenses to senior citizens.

Combination licenses cover fishing and small-game hunting.

There were small upticks in 1-day and 5-day preserve licenses sold to non-residents.

The update came on the eve of the Governor’s Pheasant Summit being held in Huron today.

Pheasant population estimates were down sharply across much of South Dakota this fall heading into the 2013 season.

Officials said more than 500 people registered in advance to participate in the day-long summit, including U.S. Sen. John Thune. A spokesperson announced Thursday that he intends to attend part of the event.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard called for the summit to address pheasant hunting and habitat. The event starts at 9 a.m. CST at the Crossroads Hotel and Convention Center in Huron.

The presentations also will be shown by South Dakota Public Broadcasting on its web site at www.sdpb.org/live. Three members of Daugaard’s Cabinet will participate: GFP Secretary Jeff Vonk; Tourism Secretary Jim Hagen; and Agriculture Secretary Lucas Lentsch.

Others on the agenda are state Wildlife Director Tony Leif, South Dakota State University agriculture and biological sciences dean Barry Dunn, Pheasants Forever representative Dave Nomsen and consultant Bruce Knight.

‘The Game’s Afoot’ Mystery mixes with comedy in Pierre Players production



Cast members (from left to right) Hannah Carda, Rachael Person, Zack Smith, Rex Craven, and Oran Lord act out a scene from the comedic murder mystery “The Game’s Afoot; or Holmes for the Holidays.” (David Rookhuyzen/Capital Journal)

By DAVID ROOKHUYZEN
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For the second production of the 2013-2014 season, the Pierre Players are taking what they know the audience likes and combining it with something a bit different.

The result is “The Game’s Afoot; or Holmes for the Holidays.” The play, which opens tonight, is equal parts comedy and thrilling mystery with just a dash of the holidays sprinkled in.

Set in December 1936, the play takes place at the Connecticut castle – yes, an actual castle – of William Gillette.

The actor, renowned across the world for his portrayal of Sherlock Holmes, was shot by someone in the audience of his last show a couple weeks before. Now he has gathered his friends and fellow cast members to celebrate the holidays and possibly track

See **PLAY**, A10

If you go

WHAT: The Pierre Players present “The Game’s Afoot; or Holmes for the Holidays”

WHERE: Pierre Opera House

WHEN: Curtain at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 6, 7 and 12-14. Matinee at 2 p.m. on Dec. 8.

COST: \$15 general admission, \$13 for seniors

For tickets: Call 224-7826

Snow is done for area, but harsh cold remains

By DAVID ROOKHUYZEN
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It’s been a cold, snowy couple days for Pierre, with several more cold – but thankfully not snowy – days to come.

The area received 4.4 inches of snow, in addition to more than half of an inch of rain, on Tuesday and Wednesday, according to the National Weather Service in Aberdeen. The precipitation was accompanied by strong winds, which averaged 25.4 mph Wednesday with gusts up to 46 mph.

The storm also brought lower temperatures, with many parts of the state forecasted to be just a few degrees above zero today, with wind chills of between minus 15 and minus 20 degrees. Pierre will see overnight lows in the teens below zero this weekend. Communities farther north such as Mobridge and Aberdeen could see overnight temperatures drop into the 20s below zero.

Travis Tarver, a meteorologist with the weather service, said the frigid temperatures are caused by an arctic air mass settling down over the central part of the United States. That air mass seems to be staying in the area and the

The weather made for slick road conditions that will persist for a couple more days. The Pierre Police Department recorded 10 collisions on city streets between 10 p.m. Monday and 11 a.m. Thursday.

Area welcomes guests for Christmas season

By CAPITAL JOURNAL STAFF
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Lt. Gov. Matt Michels welcomed a group of 40 seniors traveling from Yankton to Pierre on Thursday as the annual display of Christmas trees in the state Capitol once again begins to work its magic and draw visitors from every county in the state.

“Enjoy your Capitol,” Michels told the group as they stopped for lunch at a Fort Pierre nutrition center.

Michels, who was clearly enjoying himself, shared stories about the history of the building, now more than a century old, as well as his some of his own personal experiences in politics.

“It is wonderful that (Lt. Gov. Matt Michels) cares enough about seniors and nutrition programs throughout the state to take time out of his busy schedule,”

Christy Hauer, executive director of The Center in Yankton

Although many of the seniors had never visited the historic building, he welcomed them, saying, “This is your house.”

See **VISITORS**, A10



Lt. Gov. Matt Michels listens to a woman from Yankton who visited Pierre Thursday. (Joel Ebert/Capital Journal)

See **SNOW**, A3

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