

Of The Outdoors | Gary Howey

The Flying Fish Invasion

BY GARY HOWEY
Hartington, Neb.

As we headed up into the Jim River from the Missouri to do some bowfishing, we had no idea what to expect as there had been rumors that Silver Carp, flying fish were now in the river.

Motoring upstream, we could see a few fish coming out of the water, wow this is something I thought, pretty cool.

Then it happened, all hell broke loose as Silver Carp, all sizes, large and small started going airborne in every direction, bouncing off the front deck of the boat, both sides, off the motor, off my arm and head and into the boat. Before this day was over, we would end up with eighteen Silver Carp, running from three to seventeen pound flying into the boat.

This was late season, when the water was beginning to cool, when a fish's metabolism was slowing down, what it would be like during the heat of the summer.

Can you imagine someone on a Jet Ski or water skiing trying to dodge dozens and dozens of big fish flying going three feet into the air all around you?

Team Outdoorsmen Adventures member Marlyn Wiebelhaus who guides bow fishermen found out first hand on a trip up the Jim a couple of years back. In order to see what is in front of the boat, he stands while his clients do their best to shoot to these flying fish off the back of the boat.

One large fish came up over the dash, striking him right between the eyes, breaking his sunglasses and knocking him over the seat to the back floor. Luckily, for him, he had

his hand on the throttle and pulled it back as he went over.

You would be surprised how high they can jump when a boat comes near. It is believed the vibration of the motor startles them, feeling endangered, they go airborne to escape and have injured and killed boaters and skiers when hit at high speeds.

These fish get big as Marlyn can testify as in 2009; he took the South Dakota Silver Carp unrestricted state record a twenty-two pound ten ounce fish with his bow, which came from the Jim River.

The Nebraska archery state record Silver Carp weighed thirty-eight pounds 10 ounces.

They are a strange looking fish, having a head with no scales, while their body has very small scales. Their eyes are located towards the front of the head near the bottom. The mouth of the Silver Carp is toothless and turns up; they have a very thick body with flat sides. They are olive-green in color with silver sides and may have a bronze to red tinge.

Just how big can these fish get, would you believe over fifty pounds with reports of some up to one hundred pounds and forty inches long.

What they feed on is zooplankton and phytoplankton, tiny organisms at the bottom of the aquatic food chain and small insects. They are mostly filter feeders but seem to be adapting to eat a more varied diet.

Silver Carp eat enough plankton to damage native fish populations by removing food at the lower end of the food chain, removing food native filter feeders like paddlefish need. They also create problems for native fish, as the fry of other game fish also feed on plankton.

They grow quickly, from nine to twelve inches a year; it is believed that Asian carp could be the most abundant large (over five pounds) fish in the lower Missouri River.

Just how did these Asian Carp, the Silver get into our river systems?



PHOTO: GARY HOWEY
Branson Tolliver of Wagner, left, and Marlyn Wiebelhaus of Wynot Neb., are pictured with one of the smaller Silver Flying Carp they took with bow and arrow while on the Jim River. On this trip, Branson and Marlyn were able to shoot nine fish out of the air with 18 others jumping into the boat.

They started out down south when aquaculture farmers imported them from Asia in the 1970s to control algae and plankton in their fish farms. By the early 1990s, they were released into the wild or escaped from those fishponds.

It did not take them long to spread into much of the Mississippi

River drainage, including the Missouri, Ohio and Illinois Rivers and their tributaries. Studies on the Illinois River found Silver Carp can cover water quickly, moving forty to fifty miles a day.

They mature and breed in their third year and will continue to breed until they are ten years old.

The only thing that has stopped them from moving up stream are the dams, with states taking precautions to keep these nuisance fish from spreading up stream by implementing rules that don't allow live bait to be brought up stream from the dams.

In South Dakota, Silver Carp have spread in the Missouri River and its tributaries including into the Jim and the Sioux river.

The fish are abundant in the Missouri River of Nebraska and its tributaries, including the Platte, Loup and Elkhorn rivers.

In Iowa, they have spread from the Missouri River into the tributaries such as the Sioux River and have made their way up into the Iowa Great Lakes area of north central Iowa.

As of this writing, there is little or no way to control their spread into other waters. Bow fishermen take a few, as do commercial fishermen, which will not put even a small dent in their quickly growing population.

The only bright side, if there is to this problem is that Silver Carp when cleaned and prepared properly, make excellent eating.

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 MIDCO 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.

SPORTS DIGEST

SDSU Stadium Plan Approved By Senate Committee

PIERRE — The South Dakota State University football stadium project took a step forward Friday after the Senate Bill was passed by a 9-0 vote in the Senate Appropriations Committee during the legislative session.

The bill, Senate Bill 15, authorizes the South Dakota Building Authority and the Board of Regents to finance, design, construct, furnish and equip the proposed 18,500 to 20,000-seat football stadium in Brookings.

SDSU's new stadium — with an estimated cost of \$60 million — would be built on the current Coughlin-Alumni Stadium site, and would be completed by the summer of 2016.

The bill now moves on to the Senate floor for a final vote. Among the senators to vote yes were Tom Jones (D-Viborg, District 17) and Bill Van Gerpen (R-Tyndall, District 19).

YBI Rec Program Off For Feb. 10

Due to parent-teacher conferences in the Yankton School District, Yankton Basketball Inc. will not hold its rec basketball program for grades 4 and 5 on Monday, Feb. 10. Sessions will resume on Monday, Feb. 17.

Yankton Soccer Accepting Applications For Varsity, JV Coaches

The Yankton Youth Soccer Association is now accepting coaching applications for the 2014 varsity and junior varsity boys' and girls' soccer programs.

Applications are available online at yanktonsoccer.com or email lilliepad@iw.net. Applications must be returned to Deb Lillie at lilliepad@iw.net or 1205 Maple Street, Yankton, by Feb. 11.

Sertoma Baseball Signup March 2

The Yankton Sertoma Baseball program will hold registration for the 2014 season on Sunday, March 2, from 2-4 p.m. at the Summit Center meeting room.

The program is open to ages 5-13. Parents or guardians are required to bring an insurance card and registration fee at the time of registration.

Registration forms are available online at <http://yanktonbaseball.com>. Contact Matt Rumsey at 605-661-6219 or Kevin Gokie at 605-660-6749 for more info.

Bon Homme Girls' Basketball Tournament Feb. 23

TYNDALL — The Bon Homme girls' basketball program will sponsor a youth girls' basketball tournament on Sunday, Feb. 23, at Bon Homme High School.

The tournament is open to girls' teams in grades 4-6. Entry deadline is Feb. 14. For more information or a registration form, contact Tara Gubbrud at tara.gubbrud@k12.sd.us or 605-589-3389.

Russian TV Shows Doctored Video Of Olympic Rings

SOCHI, Russia (AP) — Smoke and mirrors? Russian state television aired footage Friday of five floating snowflakes turning into Olympic rings and bursting into pyrotechnics at the Sochi Games opening ceremony. Problem is, that didn't happen.

The opening ceremony at the Winter Games hit a bump when only four of the five rings materialized in a wintry opening scene. The five were supposed to join together and erupt in fireworks. But one snowflake never expanded, and the pyrotechnics never went off.

But everything worked fine for viewers of the Rossiya 1, the Russian host broadcaster.

As the fifth ring got stuck, Rossiya cut away to rehearsal footage. All five rings came together, and the fireworks exploded on cue.

Producers confirmed the switch, saying it was important to preserve the imagery of the Olympic symbols.

Vikings Release LB Erin Henderson

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. (AP) — The Minnesota Vikings have released linebacker Erin Henderson, who was recently arrested twice on suspicion of drunken driving.

The Vikings announced Henderson's release Friday. Henderson had one season left on his contract with a \$1.95 million salary.

Henderson's latest arrest was Jan. 1 after he crashed his sport utility vehicle in Chanhausen.

Henderson is scheduled to appear in court March 3 on charges of second- and third-degree driving while intoxicated and test refusal, possession of a small amount of marijuana and drug paraphernalia, and violation of a limited driver's license.

Henderson was moved to middle linebacker last season and the starter there until he was arrested Nov. 19 in Eden Prairie on suspicion of DWI and drug possession. The 27-year-old finished second on the team in tackles last season.

Wrestling: Aberdeen Leads Pentagon Tourney

SIoux FALLS — Aberdeen Central holds a 20-point lead over Sioux Falls Roosevelt after the opening day of the inaugural Sanford Pentagon Wrestling Tournament on Friday in Sioux Falls.

Aberdeen Central has eight wrestlers in the semifinals and takes 117 points into the final day of the 24-team event. Roosevelt has 97 points, followed by Sturgis (86), Rapid City Central (85.5) and Watertown (81).

Dakota Valley sits in 16th place with 35 points. Blake Perryman advanced to the 145-pound semifinals, and will face Brookings' Nick Hanson (27-3) in the semifinals. Robert Streeter (113), Schuyler Walchek (120) and Brady Dam (152) remain alive in wrestlebacks.

The Yankton Bucks are tied for 19th, scoring 24 points on the opening day. Spencer Huber (126) ad-

vanced to the semifinals, and will face Roosevelt's Troy Kiggins (38-1) to open action today (Saturday) Cody Vornhagen (106), Bashir Abd-Al-Kreem (113), Ryan Sternhagen (160) and Brock Folkers (195) remain alive in wrestlebacks.

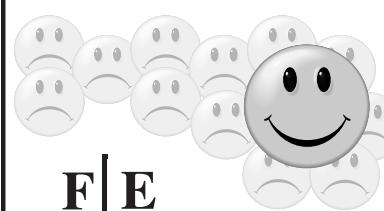
Alcester-Hudson is tied for 22nd, scoring 13 points on the first day. Trevor Stene (106), Domenick Wilson (120)

and Trent Rus (285) remain alive in wrestlebacks.

Competition begins at 9 a.m. today with fourth-round wrestlebacks. Championship and third place matches are set for 2:30 p.m.

TEAM SCORES: Aberdeen Central 117, Sioux Falls Roosevelt 97, Sturgis 86, Rapid City Central 85.5, Watertown 81, Sioux Falls Washington 74, Brookings 68.5, Mitchell 64.5, Rapid City Stevens 58, Pierre 48, Spearfish 46, Brandon Valley 40.5, Douglas 40.5, Harburg 36, Tri-Valley 36, Dakota Valley 35, West Central 33, Lennox 26, Sioux Falls O'Gorman 24, Yankton 24, Sisseton 21, Alcester-Hudson 13, Custer 13, Sioux Falls Lincoln 9

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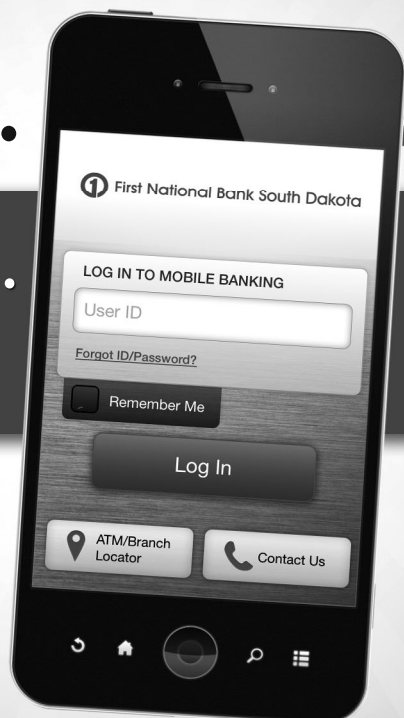
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PRESS&DAKOTAN 2014 Beautiful Baby Contest

We will be featuring our annual "Beautiful Baby Contest" in print and online on **Wednesday, February 26, 2014.**

If you or someone you know has a child we would love to include them in our feature!

To enter, simply submit your photo and entry form with a \$10 submission fee by **Monday, February 17.**

First place winners in the following categories will receive a framed winners print and prize.

- 1) Newborn-6 Months
- 2) 7-12 Months
- 3) 13-24 Months
- 4) 25 Months-4 Years
- 5) Multiple Births

Beautiful Baby Contest

Submit Entry To:
Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan
319 Walnut Street, Yankton, SD 57078

Entry Deadline:
Mon., Feb. 17, 2014

Category # _____ Age: _____ Date of Birth _____
Child's Name _____
Parents Name _____
Address _____ Phone _____

Winners will be selected by the staff of Yankton Media Inc. Employees and family members of Yankton Media Inc. are ineligible to win.
*Submission of this form authorizes the publication of child's photo in this contest in print and online at www.yankton.net.
Submission fee (\$10) must accompany entry form to be valid.