



Lakers Split With Brookings  
In Teener Action • 7

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## Asian Carp Deaths Studied

Deaths Of Hundreds Of Fish Near Vermillion Remain Mystery

By The Associated Press

SIOUX CITY, Iowa — Wildlife officials are trying to figure out what killed hundreds of Asian carp in the Missouri River this spring. The answer to the mystery could help protect other fish and might provide clues as to how to deal with the invasive carp. Fisheries biologist Jeff Schuckman said no

one has come up with a good explanation for the fish kill yet, the *Sioux City Journal* reported. The rotting carcasses of hundreds of silver carp were found in the river's slow backwaters near Vermillion and Ponca, Neb. Another incident was reported in Nebraska North Platte River near where it joins the Missouri River. Both those fish kills were reported in May.

The unexplained deaths worry wildlife officials even though the carp is an unwanted species that's competing for food with native fish and growing fast. Silver, bighead and grass carp have all been found in the Missouri River. "A lot of people think, 'Oh, it's just Asian

**"A lot of people think, 'Oh, it's just Asian carp,' or, 'It's just common carp' that are dying, but that's a big deal to us."**

JEFF SCHUCKMAN

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## South Dakota's Certified Beef Program Fails To Meet Expectations

Lack Of Large-Scale Meat Packer  
In SD Seen As Part Of The Problem

BY CHET BROKAW  
Associated Press

PIERRE — Launched with great hopes and fanfare eight years ago, the South Dakota Certified Beef program has so far fallen short of its goal of helping farmers and ranchers sell state-branded beef as a premium product commanding higher prices. When then-Gov. Mike Rounds persuaded the 2005 Legislature to create the program, he envisioned a time when people across the nation and around the world would choose to pay more for steaks that carry a South Dakota seal of approval. He said codes on package labels could let buyers visit an Internet site to track the meat's origin, following it from a calf's birth to a feedlot and then a processor. But that hasn't happened, largely because South Dakota hasn't had a meatpacking plant operating at a large scale that would make processing economical, officials say. They hope the long-delayed Northern Beef Packers plant in Aberdeen will soon fill that void. In the first eight years of the program, only 16,386 cattle — a tiny slice of a state herd that approaches 4 million head — have been enrolled by farmers and ranchers. Only 500 have made it all the way through the program to be sold as meat from the program, mostly just within South

Dakota from cattle processed by small custom meat lockers. Rounds, now running for the U.S. Senate, still thinks the program will succeed once the Aberdeen packing plant is running at full speed and more buyers demand verification of when and where cattle are born. "I think its time will come," Rounds said earlier this month. Todd Mortenson, a Hayes rancher who is still registered with the program, recalled sky-high expectations when the program was launched. "I keep hoping that something will come of it, that they'll get it revived," Mortenson said. Mortenson and others, including state Agriculture Secretary Lucas Lentsch, said that will require developing a large-scale packing plant in South Dakota that can process cattle economically. Mortenson said selling a few cattle at a time through the program isn't worth the effort because he needs to sell a truckload of 50 cattle at a time to make the Certified Beef program work financially. Northern Beef Packers, first proposed six years ago, is now operating in Aberdeen but well short of capacity. The plant laid off 108 of its approximately 420 workers in April, citing lack of money to buy

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## Real To Reel In Yankton



It's a classy touch of the 1930s in downtown Yankton, as actor John Faris stands next to a vintage auto during Sunday's shooting of a scene for the movie "Straight, No Chaser." The shooting also used at least one Yankton resident as an extra. The film's writer and producer, Dalton Coffey of Sioux Falls, is aiming to complete the short film next month and plans an online release.

RANDY DOCKENDORF/P&D

## Yankton Used In Shooting Of Short Film



Sioux Falls filmmaker Dalton Coffey (right) goes over instructions with his film crew members during Sunday's shoot in downtown Yankton.

RANDY DOCKENDORF/P&D

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF  
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Alex Heinert found himself a marked man, as organized crime tracked him — and the money he was carrying — to downtown Yankton. Heinert emerged from an alley with two mobsters in hot pursuit. After a brief chase, he turned a corner and dashed out of sight. No police were on scene — only confused bystanders. Welcome to Hollywood, or at least Yankton's version of it, as part of the historic downtown district was transported back to the Dust Bowl era for a day. Sunday's chase scene came during shooting of Sioux Falls filmmaker Dalton Coffey's new production, "Straight, No Chaser." The 10-15 film, set in 1936, used the downtown area for the final segment of filming. "I've been working on this film for a year, even given the fact that it's not a super-long film," Coffey said. "But this is typical. I've done films before that have taken a year." The 25-year-old Coffey found himself seeking the right words to describe his film. "It's a comedy set in the Depression," he said, admitting the description sounds a bit strange. "There is an urgency about the main character," the director said. "He's desperate, so he takes a side job with the mob to pick up and deliver packages. But while he is performing his services, he runs into unexpected events." In the scene, character Billy Holiday — portrayed by Heinert — has found a suitcase filled with cash. Unfortunately for him, the mob also wants the cash and is out to get him. Holiday gives them the slip and attempts to hide amidst a bread line typical of the Depression. In the process, he angers those who think he's trying to cut into the line. Coffey has completed about 75 percent of the movie. Sunday's film shoot played a crucial role in finishing the production. "This is the climax of the movie, the last piece," he said. "We were going to shoot this scene last April or May, but

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DAVID LIAS/VERMILLION PLAIN TALK  
Vermillion resident Dylan Fischbach scoots down the DakotaDome floor during an exhibition wheelchair basketball game. Fischbach, who graduated last spring from Vermillion High School, has lost part of a leg to cancer and received a Florida trip through the Make-A-Wish Foundation when he was 2.

## Make-A-Wish Chapter Works To Make More Wishes Come True

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF  
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VERMILLION — Joe Delvaux was looking for a way to ease the pain of his son's medical condition, if only for a short time. "My son, Joseph, has a real rare disease that dominates a lot of aspects of his life," the Yankton man said. "It's a progressive disease, and he has had a weekly infusion. His life revolves around this (condition)." Then, Delvaux was advised that his son may qualify for the Make-A-Wish Foundation, which provides wishes for those ages 2-19 with a life-

threatening illness. "The lady in the Sioux Falls office, where we went for the infusion, said Joseph was a perfect candidate for Make-A-Wish," said Delvaux, who teaches in the Vermillion school district. At first, Delvaux balked at the suggestion. He wasn't sure if his son would meet the criteria for Make-A-Wish recipients. "We were really reluctant for years," he said. Then, the elder Delvaux decided

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