

ASIAN CARP

Watershed Divide Being Sought

S. Dakota Among 16 States Backing Proposal

BY JOHN FLESHER
AP Environmental Writer

CHICAGO — Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette said he and his counterparts in 16 other states want to demand quicker federal action on preventing invasive species such as Asian carp from migrating between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River watersheds.

Schuette told The Associated Press that a coalition of state attorneys general reaching from West Virginia to Nevada would push Congress and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to expedite a plan for severing the connection between the two giant drainage basins that engineers constructed a century ago in Chicago rivers and canals.

Supporters contend it's the only way to slam the door on species invasions that have disrupted aquatic ecosystems and cost billions in damages in both basins. Local cargo shippers and their allies say such a move would cause massive flooding and job losses in the Chicago area.

The Army Corps has promised to conclude by 2015 a long-range study of methods for cutting off potential avenues for species to transfer between the two basins, including separating them by installing dams or other structures. But carrying out whatever the agency recommends could take many more years, and money will be tight. Environmental activists, state and local officials, Indian tribes and others across most of the Great Lakes region are pleading with the Corps to move faster.

Five states — Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin — are pressing a federal lawsuit that accuses the Army Corps and Chicago's municipal water agency of operating a public nuisance and demands the quickest possible action to physically separate the Great Lakes and Mississippi systems. The attorneys general from those states and New York said in August they would try to assemble a nationwide coalition in favor of separation.

Illinois and Indiana, the other two states adjoining the Great Lakes, haven't joined the lawsuits. Indiana officials say blocking the

waterways could cause economic problems for their communities near Chicago.

Schuette said the idea of separation has now drawn endorsements from attorneys general in Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, South Dakota, Utah, West Virginia and Wyoming.

It's unclear what practical effect the attorneys general's campaign could have, with the lawsuit by the five states already pending. The U.S. Supreme Court and lower courts have refused to order the Army Corps to expedite its study or take temporary measures such as closing Chicago-area shipping locks that could provide a pathway to Lake Michigan for Asian carp.

Still, as political leaders and chief legal strategists for their state governments, the attorneys general could wield considerable influence, said Joel Brammeier, president of the Alliance for the Great Lakes, an environmental advocacy group.

"They're guardians of their states' resources and they're helping to monitor threats from other places," Brammeier said. "They're well within their bounds to be pushing for a faster timeline on this because they know what's at stake."

Biologists Laud Comeback Of Endangered Ferret

BY AMBER HUNT
Associated Press

INTERIOR — As the cage door opened, black-footed ferret No. 7505 tentatively peeked his head out, looked hesitantly at the prairie dog burrow offered before him, and then rushed inside, disappearing beneath the earth of western South Dakota's badlands.

His freedom had been months in the making, but in less than a minute — and three decades after his species was believed extinct — he was gone, unleashed into the wild to do what the endangered ferret does best: attack and kill prairie dogs.

"Hopefully, he's chowing down on a prairie dog now," said Paul Marinari, a fish and wildlife biologist with the National Black-Footed Ferret Conservation Center.

The release was invitation-only event at the Badlands National Park, attended by about two dozen ferret fanatics, to kick off a weekend of

nationwide festivities celebrating the 30th anniversary of the rediscovery of a mustelid once thought extinct.

On Sept. 26, 1981, a ranch dog in Meeteetse, Wyo., proudly presented his owners with a dead black-footed ferret. A local taxidermist identified the creature, which had been thought extinct for several years, launching a decades-long recovery effort that has seen the ferret population grow from 18 to more than 1,000 in the wild.

The ferret is still endangered, but conservationists are hopeful that by 2020, enough will be in the wild to wipe them off the list.

"We have a responsibility to restore a species that is very much a part of our North American heritage," said Kristy Bly, a wildlife biologist with the World Wildlife Fund. The recovery of the black-footed ferret — called BFFs for short — signifies the health of the grassland ecosystem, she added.

"We're committed to seeing this healthy, liv-

ing prairie come back," Bly said.

The ferrets' decline is intertwined with the war waged on prairie dogs by farmers. Long considered farmland pests that compete with livestock for grass, prairie dogs have been hunted and poisoned en masse since the early 1900s.

The campaign worked. But as the prairie dogs disappeared, so, too, did their predators. Larry Haverfield, a cattle rancher in Logan County, Kan., said that loss wreaked havoc on the prairielands.

"Man poisons the prairie dogs, and that poison also kills some of the predators," he said. "You're shooting yourself in the foot."

Haverfield has allowed 7,000 of his 10,000-acre farm to host prairie dogs, irking his neighbors. In 2007, his land became one of just 19 recovery sites in the U.S., Canada and Mexico for the black-footed ferret, and 74 ferrets have since been released on his property.

Teenager Dies When Hit By Drunk Driver

SIoux FALLS (AP) — Authorities say a South Dakota teenager died after being hit by a drunk driver on a city street in De Smet.

The Highway Patrol says the victim was one of two pedestrians struck when a man driving a pickup failed to stop at a stop sign about 10 p.m. Friday.

The second pedestrian, also a minor, was treated for minor injuries and released.

Authorities arrested 28-year-old James R. Harris of Anoka, Minn. He is charged with drunk driving, hit and run, and vehicular homicide.

Meatpacking Firm To Pay Fine In Hog Case

SIoux FALLS (AP) — A meatpacking company has agreed to pay a fine after it was accused of undervaluing hog carcasses and falsifying records at slaughterhouses in South Dakota and Iowa.

Officials say John Morrell & Co. will pay \$162,500 as part of a settlement agreement with the federal government.

The case dates back to 2005 at meatpacking plants in Sioux Falls and Sioux City, Iowa. The Sioux City plant closed last year. The Sioux Falls plant employs about 3,000 people.

The Sioux Falls Argus Leader reports (http://bit.ly/npnwrs) that the Cincinnati-based company might have cheated hog producers out of as much as \$570,000.

Morrell officials say the underpayments were a mistake. The agreement says the company did not admit or deny the allegations, but agreed to pay the fine rather than have a hearing.

S.D. Official Embraces Education Waiver

SIoux FALLS (AP) — South Dakota Department of Education secretary Melody Schopp says the No Child Left Behind waiver plan released Friday will allow state officials to continue plans for a new statewide accountability system.

Schopp tells the *Argus Leader* that a work group of about two dozen teachers, school administrators and lawmakers have begun crafting a new accountability system for the state. Schopp said she expects the work to be done by the end of this year, in time for the state to submit a waiver request by a mid-February deadline.

Schopp said the waiver plan means the state can focus its school improvement efforts at the bottom 15 percent of schools.

Nebraska County Settles Over Beetle Habitat

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Lancaster County has agreed to a settlement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service over possible damage to the habitat of the endangered tiger beetle.

Under the settlement cited by the *Lincoln Journal Star*, the county didn't admit liability but agreed to close about a mile of Northwest 12th Street on northern Lancaster County and take other measures to protect the beetle's habitat. No fines or penalties will be levied is the county holds up its end of the deal.

The settlement stems from the dumping of fill dirt on salt flats owned by the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District that serve as habitat for the endangered beetle in violation of federal laws. County engineer Doug Pillard says the dirt was quickly removed and the wildlife service never proved the habitat was harmed.

OBITUARIES

Glen Hoerth

TYNDALL — Glen Alvin Hoerth, age 78 of Tyndall, SD passed away on Saturday, September 24, 2011 at McKennan Hospital, Sioux Falls, SD.

Funeral services will be 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, September 27, 2011 at the United Methodist Church, Tyndall, SD with Rev. R. Duane Coates officiating. The family of Glen Hoerth would like to invite everyone to a lunch immediately following the service.

Visitations will begin at 5 p.m. Monday, September 26, 2011 at the United Methodist Church, Tyndall with a 7 p.m. prayer service. Visitations will resume one hour prior to the service at the church.

Opsahl-Kostel Memorial Chapel, Tyndall is in charge of the arrangements. Pallbearers are his nephews: Jim Mathis, Jerry Mathis, Jason Mathis, Troy Lubbers, Trent Lubbers, and grandson Tyler Nedved.

Glen Alvin Hoerth was born February 28, 1933, on a farm near Alpena, SD, to Edward and



Hoerth

Martha (Heckenlaible) Hoerth. They moved to the town of Westington Springs in 1942, where he worked odd jobs and graduated high school in 1953.

Glen moved to Tyndall, SD, in 1965, where he was employed by Farm Bureau. He married Bonnie Lubbers on April 9, 1966, and they made their home in and around rural Tyndall for the remainder of his life.

Glen later worked in Yankton at HSC, Hatch Furniture and Freeman Company. In his later years he worked for the Green Thumb program for the City of Tyndall and St. Michaels Hospital. He could often be found searching for aluminum cans as he was walking to remain active. Glen was always active in the church activities and his faith never wavered no matter what life threw his way. He served as a trustee and also as an usher

for many years.

Thankful for having been a part of his life are his wife of 45 years Bonnie, his son Lee and Charlene (Pechous) Hoerth and their two children Annie and Maggie. His daughter Melissa and John Nedved and their two children Leah and Tyler, all of Tyndall, SD. His sister Elaine Mathis of Watertown, SD, one great grandchild on the way, his brother in law and sister in law Arnold and Karen Lubbers of Rockport, TX and eight nieces and nephews along with their families and also numerous friends in the Tyndall area.

Glen was preceded in death by his parents, Edward and Martha and also brother LaVerne and brother in law Ivan Mathis.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
September 26, 2011

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Nebraska

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If built, the 16-inch steel pipe would carry oil extracted from tar sands in Alberta, Canada, through Montana, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas and Oklahoma to refineries in Texas.

Other states have mostly accepted a promise from the pipeline company TransCanada that the \$7 billion project will create 20,000 jobs, mostly from construction, over two years and provide a reliable source of oil. But environmentalists and a growing number of Nebraskans are resisting.

The pipeline would be laid directly through the aquifer at the depth of at least 4 feet and deeper in many places, raising fears of catastrophic damage if any part of the tube were to rupture. It would carry 700,000 barrels of oil a day.

Nebraska Gov. Dave Heineman and other officials have urged TransCanada to pick a different route that skirts the aquifer, but

Heineman doubts the company will take his advice.

TransCanada officials have insisted the pipeline is safe and has undergone a vigorous federal review.

"If the activists feel that they're facing an uphill battle, it's because the facts don't support their overheated rhetoric," TransCanada spokesman Shawn Howard said.

Other government agencies have reported no major problems with the plan.

An environmental review by the State Department found that neither the construction nor operation of the pipeline was likely to cause serious environmental problems. And Energy Secretary Steven Chu spoke favorably of the project this month, noting the advantages of buying oil from a close ally and arguing that new technology makes such operations safer.

Five major alternative routes considered to avoid the aquifer were

found to have a "worse or similar" environmental impact, Jones said.

University of Nebraska hydrologist Jim Goeke, a retired professor who has studied the pipeline proposal for years, believes it's safe. He says the aquifer is composed of layers of loose sand, sandstone, silt and gravel that would impede the spread of an oil leak.

Goeke, who has no formal role in the project, said he expects pipeline opponents to make an impassioned case that the aquifer would be endangered, but he doesn't buy it.

"I'd be comfortable if the pipeline was defeated on the basis of good, sound science and not emotion," Goeke said. "I think it's a reflection of the pride and love Nebraskans have for the Ogallala Aquifer. A lot of people love and treasure the aquifer, and they're concerned the entire aquifer is at risk. And that just isn't factual."

Harry Swank

Harry Joe Swank, age 71, passed away on Friday, September 23rd, 2011 in the comfort of his home with his loving wife, four daughters, and CMA family by his side, following a lengthy battle with cancer. Harry proudly served with the United States Army Guard and the United States Air Guard for a total of 23 years. He also had a long career with the United States Postal Service of 32 years.



Swank

Of course knowing Harry, retirement only meant he had more time for other things. After being retired only a month, Harry became a volunteer escort for McKennan Hospital (Avera) and the hospice unit. He was then hired with the hospice unit which became his passion and he relentlessly worked with his Dougherty Hospice House family. Harry was also very much involved with Christian Motorcycle Association, Pen-Prison Ministry (M2), Abate, P2 Project, Neighborhood Watch, Life Light, Patriot Guard, Volunteers of America, American Legion Riders, Hope Haven, Chuck Colson Prison Fellowship, and Crime Stoppers.

Grateful for having shared 40 years of his life is his loving wife, Donna Swank, of Sioux Falls, SD, as well as his four daughters: Monica Swank (Lynn) of Brandon, SD; Marcia Bork (Doug) of Beaver Creek, MN; Ellen Whitmore (Michael) and Julie Wetering (Jason) both of Sioux Falls, SD. Five grandchildren: James and Eric Bork; Ashlee Jones; Pierce and Breanna Wetering and one great Grandson Reece Jones;

his sister Shirley Robinson (Max) of Fresno, CA; and four nephews and their families. He is preceded in death by his parents Harry and Myrtle Swank and sister Maude Ellen Swank.

Visitation will be at 12:00 p.m. September 26, with the family present from 6-8:00 p.m. at Miller Funeral Home, 507 South Main, Sioux Falls

A celebration of his life will be

at 1:00 p.m. September 27, 2011 at Celebrate Community, in Sioux Falls, SD. Burial will be in Hills of Rest in Sioux Falls.

The family has requested that in lieu of flowers memorials will be given to Avera Dougherty Hospice House or the Christian Motorcycle Association.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
September 26, 2011

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Our care and concern does not end with the funeral service. This week we remember with family and friends the anniversary of the deaths of:

Johanna Jerke
who passed away on September 27, 2010

Lola Lubbers
who passed away on September 28, 2010

Gary Mettler
who passed away on September 28, 2010

Wilma Helm
who passed away on September 30, 2010

Laddie Cabalka
who passed away on September 30, 2008

Carolyn Howen
who passed away on September 20, 2007

Joyce Schnabel
who passed away on September 21, 2004

This remembrance is brought to you free of charge. If you have a loved one you would like remembered, contact us at Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory. Guiding and serving families with compassion and trust.

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Enter the Journey

Are you struggling with grief or loss or helping someone through dark times? Learn more about the grief process during this 4 session educational program.

Everyone Welcome!

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Presented as a community service by:
Wintz & Ray Funeral Home in Yankton
Wintz Funeral Home in Hartington,
Coleridge and Crofton, NE.

Sessions will be held at:

4:00-5:30pm	6:30-8:00pm
The Learning Center at the Msgr. Werner Activities Center, Hartington, NE	Wintz & Ray Funeral Home 2901 Douglas Yankton, SD

Session Topics:

- Oct. 11 • Expectations on the Journey
- Oct. 18 • No formal session – we encourage people to attend the grief seminar presented by Alan Wolfelt to be held at the Avera Pavilion.
- Oct. 25 • Exploring the Grief
- Nov. 1 • Embracing the Uniqueness of Your Grief
- Nov. 8 • Experiencing Life Beyond

Presenter: Sheila Kramer, Aftercare Coordinator
Sheila is the aftercare coordinator for the Wintz Funeral Homes. She received her Master's Degree in School Counseling with an emphasis in Community Counseling and has over 21 years of counseling experience.

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