

Dakota Datebook by Dr. Steve Hoffbeck

Introducing Carp Into North Dakota

November 6, 2025 – It seemed like a good idea in the 1880s to introduce the common carp into Dakota’s lakes, rivers and ponds. After all, carp have been highly valued in Europe and Asia for centuries. Originating in Asia, carp were cultivated as a valuable food source as early as 300 B.C. Carp were also native to Eastern Europe, where they were considered tasty. After carp were transplanted in England, Izaak Walton praised the fish as the “Queen of Rivers” in his classic book, “The Compleat Angler.”

The propagation of foreign carp in the U.S. began in 1831 and when the U.S. Fish Commission began in 1871. Its philosophy was to “stock any promising species of fish in any accessible body of water.”

The national fish commission labeled carp a “desirable species” as early as 1874, and began to bring the fish to many states so that recent immigrants could get plenty of carp in local fish-markets.

And so, in 1885, a U.S. government fish railway car arrived in Bismarck; and on this date, “a large number of carp were transferred to the brooks and ponds of Burleigh County.”

Anyone could have some carp free-of-charge if they would plant them in nearby ponds and creeks.

The Bismarck Tribune called carp a valuable gift to Dakota, because they were so hardy, and able to live even in stagnant water. Giving away free carp seemed to be a wise and commendable action.

A number of people showed up to get some. John Yegen took forty for placement in the creek that flowed through his farmland. J.A. Fields put 20 carp in Apple Creek. John Davidson kept 20 in a glass jar for the winter, planning to release the carp in springtime. The previous year, W.F. Steele had gotten a painful of carp to pour into Lake Etta near the town of Steele. In 1887, 110 North Dakotans accepted carp for their local waters.

However, the carp proved to be a bad mistake, for they rapidly proliferated. Their eat-

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ing habits roiled the waters, and carp displaced more desirable fish. Some people swore that carp meat tasted muddy.

The U.S. Fish Commission stopped distributing carp in the 1890s, but it was too late to stop the spread. Soon carp were designated as “rough fish” to be caught without limits, in modern times becoming the “biggest aquatic nuisance” in North Dakota’s lakes and reservoirs.

“Dakota Datebook” is a radio series from Prairie Public in partnership with the State Historical Society of North Dakota and with funding from the North Dakota Humanities Council. See all the Dakota Datebooks at prairiepublic.org, subscribe to the “Dakota Datebook” podcast, or buy the Dakota Datebook book at shopprairiepublic.org.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

WEEKLY ONGOING EVENTS/REMINDERS:

***AA Fellowship Corner Meeting Schedule:** Monday 7 p.m., Wednesday noon, Friday noon, Saturday 8 p.m.

NA Meetings: Tuesday evening 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 6:30 p.m. For more information call 701-845-3705. The meetings are held at 320 2nd Ave SE in Valley City.

***Barnes County Museum,** is open and welcoming visitors from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Saturday, closed on Sundays. The museum is located at 315 Central Ave N, Valley City. Call Wes at 701-845-0966 for tour and additional information.

***Barnes County Veterans Service Office Veterans Coffee Hour** welcomes BC Veterans to a meet and greet with other area veterans every third Wednesday of the month from 10 a.m.-12 noon. Office is located at 575 10th St SW, Suite #7, Valley City (same building as Sheriff’s Office). Refreshments and treats will be provided.

***Celebrate Recovery,** a Christ centered 12-step pro-

gram for every hurt, habit or hang-up meets 6:15 p.m. free will donation meal, 7 p.m. large group, 8 p.m. small group with childcare available at Connect Church, 320 Central Avenue South in Valley City. For more information call Tanner Nielsen @ 701-840-5281 or Erin @ 701-213-6834.

***Drivers License at Grand Stay Hotel & Suites,** 271 Winter Show Road in Conference Room every 1st and 3rd Wednesday from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. For more information call 701-328-2500.

***Everbridge - Barnes County Emergency Notification System,** is a great way to get community updates directly on your phone. Download the app or choose to receive emails, phone calls or text messages on winter road closures, severe weather warnings, missing or endangered persons alerts and more. You choose what you want to be notified of and how you are notified. Go to www.co.barnes.nd.us Click on resident alert button. Click on “sign up” button to add your information to this notification system. Create your account. Sign up for alerts.

***St. Catherine Quilters** make quilts for those in need, meeting every Thursday from 1-4:30 p.m. and 6:30-9 p.m. in the basement gym of St. Catherine School. All are welcome, no experience necessary and supplies are provided. Questions call Christine 701-840-2580 or Lela 701-845-8352.

*** D. A. V. Meet-**

ings: 2nd Thursday of each month, 7:00 p.m. at the Eagles Club in Valley City.

*** Hjemdahl Lodge-Sons of Norway:**Meets every third Friday at 7:00 p.m. at Grace Free Lutheran Church.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Thurs., Nov. 6**
- Barnes County Senior Center menu: Knoephla soup, ham salad sandwich, fruit cocktail. Activities: 5:30 p.m. - Supper Night: Entree -Brisket; Entertainment: The 3D’s.
- Fri., Nov. 7**
- * St. Catherine School 53rd Annual Auction:** Valley City Eagles Club. Silent Auction & Bake Sale starts at 5:00 p.m., Live Auction at 6:30 p.m.
 - * 2025 Holiday Pop-Up Shop by Rhonda Fairfield:** November 7 thru December 20, West of Handy Home & Hardware. For more info. 701-490-1983
 - * The Valley City Area Chamber of Commerce is hosting the 4th Annual Save a Buck and Spend Some Doe Event:** November 7th and 8th, downtown and all-around Valley City and the surrounding area.

- Sat., Nov. 8**
- Barnes County Senior Center menu: Chicken strips, green beans, baby bakers, tropical fruit, cookie.
 - * The Valley City Area Chamber of Commerce is hosting the 4th Annual Save a Buck and Spend Some Doe Event:**
- Sun., Nov. 9**
- Barnes County Senior Center menu: Swiss steak, creamed peas, parsley potatoes, Mandarin oranges.

- Mon., Nov. 10**
- Barnes County Senior Center menu: Cabbage roll, carrots, Au Gratin potatoes, pears.
- Tues., Nov. 11**
- * Local military organizations** are sponsoring a free meal for all area Veterans and their spouses on Veterans Day at the Eagles Club in Valley City. from 5 - 7 p.m.
- Wed., Nov. 12**
- * Bill’s Variety Eats & Catering:** Free meal for all veterans plus 1. Today, November 12th from 11 a.m.- 1 p.m. at the North Dakota National Guard Armory Valley City
- Fri., Nov. 14**
- * Norwegian-Singing Duo** - Project Constellation in concert tonight, Nov. 14th at 7:00 p.m. in the Past Presidents Room, Valley City Eagles. Sponsored by Hjemdahl Lodge sons of Norway, Everyone is welcome to come enjoy this free concert. Refreshments & Norske treats will be served.



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Extended Forecast for Valley City ND



National Weather Service

50/31

Thursday

Mostly cloudy, with a high near 50. Southeast wind 10 to 15 mph becoming west in the afternoon.

Thursday Night

Increasing clouds, with a low around 31. West wind 9 to 13 mph.

Friday

Mostly cloudy, with a high near 36. North wind 7 to 15 mph.

Friday Night

A 30 percent chance of snow after midnight. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 19. North wind around 7 mph becoming east in the evening.

Saturday

A 20 percent chance of snow before noon. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 28. Northeast wind 8 to 15 mph becoming north northwest in the afternoon.

Saturday Night

Partly cloudy, with a low around 14. Northwest wind 10 to 13 mph.



LEGALS

NOTICE OF HEARING ON APPLICATION FOR ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a hearing will be held on November 18th at 5:00 p.m. to consider the application submitted by Sho3 LLC for a Class B and C license to operate an establishment at 455 Wintershow Rd. Any interested person may appear and will be heard at the above referenced time and place. The applications will be available for inspection and copying at the office of the City Auditor during regular business hours prior to the hearing. Dated this October 27th, 2025 Brenda Klein, Finance Director City of Valley City Barnes County, North Dakota