

January

JANUARY 2

Pauline Rhoades of Yankton has been selected Yankton's 2008 Citizen of the Year. She has been active in numerous community events and has been the longtime chairperson of the Riverboat Days Board of Directors. A reception to honor Rhoades will be held at a later date.

January 6

South Dakota's first flu associated death of the season has been reported to the state Health Department. The victim lived in Davison County and was 80-89 years old. The person had influenza A and other health conditions.

A Minnesota board certified results showing Democrat Al Franken winning the state's U.S. Senate recount over Republican Norm Coleman.

January 7

Yankton County Commissioner Bruce Jensen became the new chairman of the county commission during yesterday's annual reorganization meeting. Outgoing chairman Allen Sinclair nominated Jensen, who was unanimously elected.

January 8

The Yankton School District approved a \$7.15 million capital outlay certificate authorization during a public hearing yesterday. The authorization will allow the district to move forward with plans to bring Stewart and Lincoln Elementary, and the middle school into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The district will also be building three new structures: administration offices bus barn and maintenance shop.

MtronPTI in Yankton has announced that 15 employees have been laid off as a result of the slowing economy.

January 14

Lynn Peterson is the new incoming president of the Yankton Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors during the Chambers' annual meeting and banquet held last night at Minerva's Grill & Bar.

January 15

Longtime Yankton ophthalmologist Dr. Thomas Willcockson has died he was 92. Dr. Tom as his patients called him, lived his life with the attitude that, if you are going to do something, do it right-and he never backed away from that idea.

January 16

Kolberg-Pioneer of Yankton has announced their plans to lay off approximately 13 percent of its workforce due to the slowing economy, both domestically and internationally. 57 positions have been cut.

A cool headed pilot maneuvered his crippled jetliner over New York City and landed it in the Hudson River yesterday. All 155 people on board were pulled to safety as the plane slowly sank. One victim suffered two broken legs, but there were no other serious injuries. The plane struck a flock of birds just minutes after takeoff, disabling the engines.

January 17

First Dakota National Bank has announced plans to establish a low interest loan program to help those who have been laid off recently from their jobs. Larry Ness,

president of First Dakota National Bank, said his institution has set aside \$2 million for the program.

The University of South Dakota's new Theodore and Karen Muenster University Center is preparing to open in mid-February, university officials are preparing for a grand opening in mid March.

Gordon Dekkenga announced last month that he would resign from his current position as head of Yankton County Emergency Medical Services to become the ambulance director for Brookings. He has managed the Yankton County EMS for 13 years.

January 19

Steve Slowey and Marv Looby of Yankton recently made donations to Yankton's XYZ organization. Slowey donated the former library building at Fourth & Capital and Looby donated 4.5 acres of land west Morgen Square.

January 21

Barack Obama became the 44th President of the United States today. More than a million people crammed into Washington to witness the history making inauguration. He became America's first black president. His wife Michelle and two daughters Sasha and Malia were at his side.

January 22

New York Senator Hillary Clinton was confirmed yesterday as President Barack Obama's secretary of state. She was sworn in as the nation's 67th secretary of state. In attendance were her husband, former President Bill Clinton and her Senate staff.

January 23

Sapa Extrusions Inc. of Yankton has announced a lay off of approximately 15 percent of their workforce. John Clifton, the general manager of the plant said they company had to let go between 40 and 45 employees. He explained that orders have reached a historic low as a result of the economic downturn.

President Barack Obama has signed orders to close the prison in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba within one year. The orders would also prohibit the CIA from using coercive interrogation techniques that already are banned by the Pentagon.

January 24

Yankton native Jon Anderson was named executive vice president and publisher of Simon & Schuster's Children's Publishing division. Jon has written more than 25 children's books that have sold millions of copies. Anderson is a 1982 graduate of Yankton High School.

January 27

The recession is resulting in massive layoffs in the United States. Some of the biggest names in American business-Pfizer, Caterpillar, Home Depot, Circuit City, and Microsoft are among them. The unemployment rate is now at a 16 year high of 7.2 percent.

Yankton natives Cindy and Mike Huether announced plans along with Augustana College in Sioux Falls to build a new tennis complex on the campus that will serve both the college and the community. The facility will be named the Huether Tennis Centre. The Huethers provided the lead gift of \$300,000 towards the project. Both Cindy and

Mike are graduates of Yankton High School and Cindy coach's girl's tennis at Sioux Falls Washington High School.

January 28

The Missouri Valley Boys and Girls Club of Yankton hosted their grand opening today. The club is located at 1804

Broadway. Pamida in Vermillion, SD is closing its doors for good this weekend. Pamida has served the Vermillion area for more than 25 years. Decreasing sales and the economy was a key factor in the decision. Dean Williamson, vice president of human resources

in Pamida's Omaha, Nebraska office said the company is closing 11 stores.

January 30

Yankton Verve is celebrating their first anniversary. The group also took on an executive director, Jonna Supurgaci. She has worked with the

group since its formation. The group is marking their first anniversary with an event at Minerva's on February 27.

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