

South Dakota has its first human case of West Nile virus this year. The Health Department says a Hughes County resident in the 30 to 39 age group has been diagnosed with the virus, which is transmitted by mosquitoes. Twenty-six people in South Dakota have died of West Nile since the first reported case in 2002.

June 8

Bikers stopped in Yankton, at Memorial Park on Sunday afternoon at the close of the 73-mile first leg of the fifth annual Tour de Kota. The festivities at Memorial Park including a beverage garden, food vendors and live entertainment by "Rust." The second leg of the tour today (Monday) features a 59-mile ride from Yankton to Wagner.

June 10

A woman accused along with her husband of being spies for Cuba worked for the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission and a U.S. senator before moving to Washington, D.C. Retired State Department worker Walter Kendall Myers, 72, and his wife, Gwendolyn Steingraber Myers, 71, are charged with passing U.S. secrets to the communist government. According to court documents, the couple lived in South Dakota in 1979-1980 and then moved to Washington where they married. Gwendolyn Steingraber worked as a legislative aide for former U.S. Sen. Jim Abourezk before going to Pierre and serving as the PUC's deputy director for fixed utilities.

June 15

National and international archery tournaments took place in Yankton during the weekend, and organizers decided it offered the perfect occasion for the dedication of the joint National Field Archery Association Headquarters (NFAA) and Easton Sports Development Foundation Center for Archery Excellence. More than a dozen countries and almost all 50 states were represented at the tournaments, and many of the hundreds of archers and their families, as well as Yankton residents, gathered at the Center for Archery Excellence Saturday night. He took the opportunity to thank the City of Yankton, Yankton County, Yankton Area Progressive Growth, the Yankton Area Chamber of Commerce, the Yankton Office of Economic Development, the Governor's Office of Economic Development, the Easton Sports Development Foundation and the NFAA Foundation for their involvement in making the building possible. The 22,000-square-foot building, located at 800 Archery Lane just off of Highway 50 on Yankton's eastern edge, features a 25-meter indoor range that is open to the public year-round. The complex also has several permanent outdoor ranges.

June 17

Emergency crews worked to clear the downed trees and limbs in Menno last night after a powerful storm pounded the Hutchinson County community. The region saw a night filled with warnings and reports of tornados, hail and severe thunderstorms. St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Fordyce, Nebraska will be celebrating their 100th birthday. They will celebrate their early beginnings June 20-21 on the



church grounds in Fordyce. The theme of St. John's celebration is "Heart of our Community."

June 22

Miss South Dakota 2008, Alexandra Hoffman crowned Morgan Peck, Miss South Dakota 2009. Peck, a Sioux Falls native competed as Miss USD, will represent South Dakota at the Miss America pageant in January in Las Vegas.

Jennifer Pechous was crowned the 2009 Czech Days queen. The Czech Days celebration takes place in Tabor each June. Pechous now begins a yearlong journey where she will be promoting Czech Days across the state.

June 24

A Yankton man was sentenced to three consecutive life sentences Tuesday for killing three young adults last September. Ernest Benjamin Tupper III, 58, pleaded guilty but mental ill to three counts of first-degree murder in May as part of a plea agreement with the Yankton County State's Attorney Office. In doing so, he admitted to killing Chassidy Bamsey, Robert Riibe and Brian Vanwagner in a Sept. 28, 2008 shooting incident at the Marne Creek Apartments in the 600 block of West 21st Street.

Ed McMahon, the longtime pitcher and Johnny Carson sidekick who's "Heeeeeer's Johnny!" has died he was 86. Ed had suffered several health problems in recent years.

McMahon passed away peacefully shortly after midnight at the Ronald Reagan/UCLA Medical Center, his publicist, Howard Bragman, said Tuesday that Ed was hospitalized in February with pneumonia and other medical problems.

June 26

Farrah Fawcett, whose luxurious tresses and blinding smile helped redefine sex appeal in the 1970s as one of TV's "Charlie's Angels," died yesterday after battling cancer. She was 62. She burst on the scene in 1976 as one-third of the crime-fighting trio in TV's "Charlie's Angels." A poster of her in a clingy swimsuit sold in the millions. Her son Redmond and longtime companion Ryan O'Neal survive her.

Michael Jackson, called the King of Pop, has died suddenly in Los Angeles at the age of 50. The singer was rushed to hospital Thursday, where doctors pronounced him dead.

June 29

Billy Mays died yesterday at the age of 50. He became famous, or perhaps infamous, for his loud, loud, carry-like ads for OxyClean, a product of Orange Glo International. He later took on other brands for the company including Orange Glow and Kaboom. He was particularly successful at hustling the products on the Home Shopping Network.

June 30

Yankton High School yearbook advisor Jill Mikkelsen, editor Briana Willcockson and junior editor Jordan Koch attended a Taylor Summer Yearbook Workshop at St. John's College in Minnesota. Thirty schools, 126 participants and four days later, the YHS team walked away with four out of five possible awards from the camp.

July

July 2

The Gehl Company announced Wednesday that it is laying off an additional 30 employees. The decision is a result of the continuing slump in construction equipment sales, officials say. "Brian Pearlman, vice president of human resources for the company. "We've had the (Yankton) plant running very minimally for a good part of the year. There's not much production going on in that facility right now." The Gehl Company announced at the end of May that it would be temporarily suspending production at its Yankton plant. Approximately 100 employees had been called back to work in mid-April after an extended shutdown that stretched back to the beginning of the year. More than 100 employees have been laid off at the Yankton plant since December.

July 7

Bob Winter may have won the National Athletic Director of the Year award from the

National High School Athletic Coaches Association, but he was quick to credit the community for helping him win the award. "If you don't have a good staff or a supportive community, like I do here in Yankton, then you won't be in position to win this award," Winter said. Winter has been the Activities Director at YHS the last 20 years and has been associated with the school for 46 years. He started his career as a science teacher and has coached every sport during his tenure.

July 9

Democratic Rep. Stephanie Herseth Sandlin said Wednesday that she might someday run for the U.S. Senate or the governor's office, but not next year. South Dakota's lone member of the U.S. House announced Tuesday that she plans to seek re-election in 2010, ending speculation that she might run for the open governor's seat or even challenge Republican Sen. John Thune.

July 10

An early morning rain-storm wrecked havoc on Yankton and the surrounding area yesterday high winds and hail as large as golf balls were reported. Cars, windows and crops were severely damaged by the hail. The storm tipped a semi truck north of Yankton. The region also saw extensive rainfall, with reports of up to 4 inches.

July 13

Loy Gravholt, who taught language arts/speech at Yankton High School for 36 years, recently was selected to receive a Distinguished Service Award from the South Dakota High School Activities Association for his teaching and judging oral interpretation. When he retired from teaching in 1999, he began judging speech competitions, otherwise known as oral interpretation, including several regional competitions and the annual South Dakota Oral Interpretation Festival. For this and Gravholt's other career accolades, the South Dakota High School Activities Association (SDHSAA) recently selected him to receive the organization's Distinguished Service Award. It is the highest honor bestowed to individuals involving South Dakota high school activities.

In a ceremony steep in tradition, Major David Fossum, Brookings, became the new commander of the 730th Area Support Medical Company of the South Dakota Army National Guard, following a change of command ceremony held Saturday at the National Guard Armory in Vermillion. Fossum has taken over the responsibilities of former commander Maj. Christopher Storms, Manhattan, Kan., who served in the command position since September of 2005.

July 17

Charlie Battery is now stationed in Kuwait — but its soldiers are never more than a keystroke away on a comput-



er. The unit, which was activated last April, left Fort Hood, Texas, and arrived in Kuwait in time for the Fourth of July. In order to stay in touch with family and friends, the unit has started a page on the Facebook social networking Web site. The page had attracted 990 "fans" as of Wednesday afternoon, and the number is sure to grow as more people become aware of the site. Charlie Battery is a member of the 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery of the South Dakota National Guard. For this mission, the 1/147 forms part of the 115th Fire Brigade of Wyoming.

July 18

Walter Cronkite died last night at his home in New York at the age of 92. He was a premier TV anchorman for the CBS evening news from 1962 to 1981. He was called "The most trusted man in America". He covered some major stories in his lifetime from the President Kennedy assassination, the Martin Luther King assassination, anti-war riots, Watergate and the Iranian hostage crisis.

July 22

The skyline along S.D. Highway 46 north of Avon took on a new look Tuesday. By late afternoon, the Kennebec Telephone Company crew erected a 60-meter tall meteorological (or "MET") tower for tracking wind data for proposed area wind farms. Last night, the tower was operational and providing the

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