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## CDC: West Nile Rampant

### One Of Largest Outbreaks In U.S. History

BY MIKE STOBBE  
AP Medical Writer

ATLANTA — U.S. health officials reported Wednesday three times the usual number of West Nile cases for this time of year and one expert called it “one of the largest” outbreaks since the virus appeared in this country in 1999.

So far, 1,118 illnesses have been reported, about half of them in Texas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In an average year, fewer than 300 cases are reported by mid-August. There have also been 41

deaths this year.

“We’re in the midst of one of the largest West Nile outbreaks ever seen in the United States,” said Dr. Lyle Petersen, a CDC official.

Never before have so many illnesses been reported this early, said Petersen, who oversees the CDC’s mosquito-borne illness programs.

Most infections are usually reported in August and September, so it’s too early to say how bad this year will end up, CDC officials said.

They think the mild winter, early spring and very hot summer have fostered breeding of mosquitoes that pick up the virus from birds they

bite and then spread it to people.

West Nile virus was first reported in the U.S. in 1999 in New York, and gradually spread across the country over the years. It peaked in 2002 and 2003, when severe illnesses reached nearly 3,000 and deaths surpassed 260. Last year was mild with fewer than 700 cases.

Only about one in five infected people get sick. One in 150 infected people will develop severe symptoms including neck stiffness, disorientation, coma and paralysis.

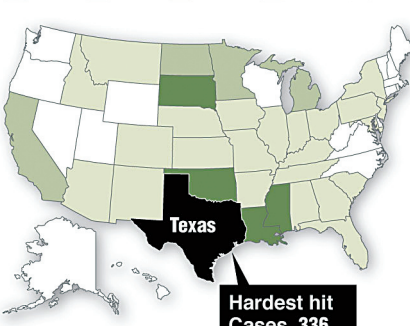
In recent years, cases have been scattered across the country. Hot spots are usually in southeast Louisiana, central and southern

### Mapping West Nile

This year’s outbreak of mosquito-borne West Nile — nearly 700 cases to date — is the worst since 2004.

States with cases, as of Aug. 14\*

None 1-10 11-25 26-60 More than 60



#### About West Nile

• **Neuroinvasive**  
More severe form; affects central nervous system; includes meningitis and encephalitis

• **Nonneuroinvasive**  
Less severe form; does not affect central nervous system; causes West Nile fever

**Hardest hit**  
Cases 336  
Deaths 14

\*Includes confirmed and probable cases  
NOTE: Alaska and Hawaii are not to scale

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Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
Graphic: Pat Carr

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## Sailboat Regatta To Honor Lueders

BY EMILY NIEBRUGGE  
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Special Olympics has always been an important organization for Jeff and Judy Wahl. This will be the sixth year the Wahls, owners of the Lewis and Clark Resort have held the Bash to the Colonies Sailboat Regatta, in honor of their late daughter, Brandi Wahl Lueders, who was actively involved in Special Olympics.

Jeff said this event is his way of giving back, and all of the money raised goes to the Special Olympics of South Dakota, located in Sioux Falls.

“The first year was free — it was all sponsored by us,” he said. “The second year, my other daughter Nicole got involved with fundraising for Special Olympics, so we started asking for an entry fee with everything going towards Special Olympics. It just kept growing and growing off the bat.”

The event will be held Friday, Aug. 24-Sunday, Aug. 26 at the Lewis and Clark Marina and Resort. The weekend will kick off with a captains meeting at 8 p.m. on Friday.

The event raised \$850 the second year, \$5,000 the third year, \$16,000 the fourth year and last year brought in approximately \$23,000, Jeff said. There are usually about 40 boats on the race course, and there have been as many as 54 entered, he said.

This year, there will also be a Powerboat Poker Run Bash and the Corn Hole Tournament, which will be held at Cottonwood.

To prepare for the event, Judy has been helping Jeff make preparations, which includes finishing the trophies.

“The first-place trophies are quite coveted,” she said. “It takes about \$200 to make one. Second-place trophies are painted fish, and the third-place trophies are smaller painted fish. Everybody gets something, which is extremely important for this event. Some people have the trophies that they’ve won hanging up in their boats. One guy that I know won so many glass trophies that he put up a trophy case for them.”

Jeff said one of the reasons he enjoys the event so much is because it’s a fun way to donate to charity, instead of simply writing a check.

“The Yankton community has always been a giving, caring community,” he said. “The boaters are the same. This way it just ties

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## HELPING MAKE HISTORY



KELLY HERTZ/PA&D

Rodger Harts of the The Tri-State Old Iron Antique Tractor Association says several members of the group will be taking part in a parade at the Nebraska State Fair in Grand Island next week that will attempt to set the world record of the longest tractor parade. The current record was set in Germany in 2008. “It’s going to be a once-in-a-lifetime chance that this will ever happen,” Harts said.

## Local Club To Participate In The World’s Largest Parade Of Tractors

BY DEREK BARTOS  
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The Tri-State Old Iron Antique Tractor Association is ready to help make history.

Members of the local group will join other tractor enthusiasts in Grand Island, Neb., Saturday for the World’s Largest Parade of Tractors. Presented by RFD-TV and the Nebraska State Fair, the parade is an attempt to break the current Guinness Book of World Records tractor parade mark of 745 tractors set in Germany in 2008. Registration for the event closed last week with 1,000 tractors registered.

“It’s going to be a once-in-a-lifetime chance that this will ever happen,” said Rodger Harts, president of the tractor club.

Harts said the club was recently asked to attend the event by RFD-TV, which originally had a goal of recruiting 800 tractors.

“We decided we would go down and participate in it and get some publicity for the Yankton area, our club and what our club is trying to do,” he said.

Organized in 2005, the Tri-State Old Iron Antique Tractor Club consists of 160 families, with members in South Dakota, Nebraska and Iowa. The club meets at 7 p.m. on the sec-

ond Monday of each month at JoDean’s in Yankton, and it participates in various parades and tractor rides throughout the area.

The tractor club’s main event is the two-day WNAX/Tri-State Old Iron Antique Tractor Drive held each July. This year’s drive featured 180 tractors, with drivers from South Dakota, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Oklahoma and New York visiting area towns and traveling 144 total miles.

Harts said approximately 30 club members and 20 tractors will make the trip to Grand Island with the hopes of gaining more exposure.

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## Noem, Varilek Debate Farm Issues At Dakotafest

BY DIRK LAMMERS  
Associated Press

MITCHELL — Republican U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem and Democratic challenger Matt Varilek repeatedly stressed the need for Congress to pass a new farm bill Wednesday but disagreed on who’s to blame for it failing to reach the House floor.

Several hundred people gathered inside a packed tent and spilled out onto the outskirts at the Dakotafest farm show in Mitchell to hear the candidates spar mostly on agriculture issues during their first debate.

In July, the House Agriculture Committee, of which Noem is a member, approved a new five-year farm bill that would eliminate much-criticized direct payments, under which farmers are paid even when they don’t plant a crop, to be replaced with new price and revenue support programs. The Senate passed companion legislation in June. But the bill has yet to make it to the House floor, and Congress is currently on a five-week recess.

Varilek said House members need to move away from the “my way or the highway” attitude that causes such gridlock and work together. He said Noem should be doing more to pressure leadership to bring the bill to the floor.

“Not only have they not passed a farm bill, they haven’t even voted on a farm bill,” Varilek said of the chamber to which he’s seeking office.

Noem said she’s been working hard to gather votes and work with House leaders.

Varilek said he prefers the Senate version of the farm bill, which has safety net provisions for commodity growers that are more favorable to corn and bean growers. He said the House version is tilted toward peanut and rice producers. Noem said she likes the commodity title in



DEBATE | PAGE 11

## Poker Run To Help Austin Anderson Planned

BY DEREK BARTOS  
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COURTESY PHOTO

A poker run benefit will be held Saturday, Sept. 8, for Austin Anderson, who has been fighting a rare form of cancer since July 2011. Proceeds will help cover costs of transportation to and from the hospital for his treatments, as well as medical bills not covered by insurance.

For the past year, 5-year-old Austin Anderson has been in a battle for his life.

The Yankton native was diagnosed in July 2011 with rhabdomyosarcoma, a rare, aggressive type of cancer that grows in the soft tissues of the body. Since then, Austin has had six surgeries, multiple rounds of chemotherapy and radiation, and has fought off numerous infections.

“He’s had a long road,” said Misti Stahlecker Anderson, Austin’s mother.

While Austin’s condition has improved, his fight continues, and he is scheduled to continue chemotherapy until November.

To help with the transportation costs to and from the hospital as well as medical bills not covered by insurance, family

## OUR TOWNS

### Yankton County

and friends will be holding the Austin Anderson “Fight This Cancer” Poker Run on Saturday, Sept. 8.

“It takes a whole community and strangers to keep the parents going, and to keep the fight going,” said Heather Jensen, a family friend and coordinator for the benefit.

While the battle has taken its toll on Austin, he continues to have a positive attitude, said Mick Carda, Austin’s father.

“He’s handling it better than everyone else around him,” Carda said. “He’s a tough guy.”

Misti said one thing that has kept

Austin’s spirits up is the fact that he can now attend school. Misti and Austin recently moved to Beresford, and the school district has worked with the family to create a schedule that will work around Austin’s treatments.

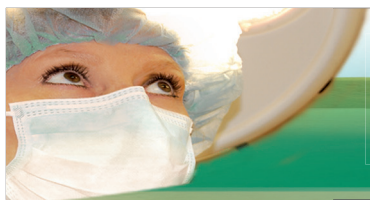
“He started school Wednesday, and I’ve never seen a boy move so fast out of bed,” Misti said with a laugh.

When Austin’s chemotherapy is complete in November, he will be tested to see if the cancer is in remission.

“Hopefully when they do those last scans, he’ll have a clean bill of health,” Carda said.

Even if Austin is in remission, he will still need to have tests done frequently, as there will still be the risk for other

AUSTIN | PAGE 11



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