

## Hantavirus hits Perkins County for first time

By S. Goff

### One Year Ago

*September 15, 2011*

The Senior Center in Grant received new kitchen equipment and kitchen staff began cooking noon meals and even fresh bread on site for seniors and community members.

The public was treated with two performances of "The Sound of Music" by Perkins County High School students Sept. 11 and the 13th.

### Ten Years Ago

*September 12, 2002*

The first ever recorded case of the hantavirus hit Perkins County when a 36-year-old man was rushed to Scottsbluff for immediate treatment. Bryan Searcey who lived southwest of Grant, contracted the illness after trapping mice and cleaning out a shed. He went to see Dr. Colglazier, and after a series of tests, it was determined he did in fact have the virus and he was rushed by ambulance to Regional West Medical Center in Scottsbluff. Mr. Searcey made a complete recovery.

### Twenty-five Years Ago

*September 16, 1987*

Francis Johnston was involved in a one vehicle accident three miles west of Grant, where he was pronounced dead at the scene. The 1984 Ford truck he was driving apparently ran off the road and struck a tree. It was unknown but thought that Mr. Johnston may have suffered a heart attack before driving off the road. Investigators ruled that the injuries sustained from the accident were fatal, and the real cause of the accident was never determined.

### Fifty Years Ago

*September 13, 1962*

Carla Harris was celebrating her second birthday when she fell into an open pipe of the furnace in her family's home. Her mother had the grate off the pipe to be cleaned and the poor child fell in. She was lodged in so tightly that it was necessary for her mother to call on the help of the fire department. Luckily there was no fire lit in the furnace at the time and Carla only suffered minor scrapes and bruises.

### Seventy-Five Years Ago

*September 16, 1937*

The president of the Grant Gun Club was busy sending out notices of his set "Blue Rock Shoot." Every shooter was invited to come out with their guns and "get their bad eye in practice for the ducks and pheasants." A cash prize of \$5 was being offered to the first man to break 25 straight at skeet shooting.

