By Allison Winters
The Tombstone Epitaph

Nearly 50 human cases of West Nile virus and three deaths have been reported in 2006, according to the Arizona Department of Health Services.

"The two cases of gentlemen in the Douglas area are still the only human cases that have been reported in Cochise County," Karla Jenson, public information officer for the Cochise County Health Department, said in an e-mail.

According to the CDC, there were four cases of human West Nile virus reported in Cochise County this year, two three years ago, and one case in 1994.

"The (Cochise) County Health Department becomes really important for horse owners to make sure they get their animals tested," Jenson said. "Many cases are not caught early, so it's probably because they were infected upstate."

"Neither the human nor the equine cases (in Cochise County) have been linked to the Tombstone area," Jenson said. "The two infected horses were located in the northern part of the county, she said.

Statewide, the heavy monsoon season and continuing warm weather has provided good conditions for mosquito breeding, said Michael Murphy, communications manager for the Arizona Department of Health.

"I think what we can say is that our normally nonexistent season cre- ated a lot of unexpected activity," Murphy said. "It's sort of ramped up the mosquito season."

The number of deaths reported in consistent with last year, Murphy said. "It's just now part of our environment," he said.

The Cochise County Health Department is responsible for all of the county's health cases and is a one-stop shop for all information regarding any diseases in Cochise County.

"Thus, we do not have any hot spots as have been reported in Tucson," he said.

It is estimated that one in five people who are infected with the virus will develop West Nile fever. Symptoms of the disease include fever, headache, truncosis, body aches, and skin rash on the trunk of the body and swollen lymph glands. The illness can last a few days to several weeks, according to the Center for Disease Control Web site.

"The (Cochise) County Health Department becomes aware of illnesses throughout the county, particularly any irregularities or inconsistencies, such as human cases of West Nile fever through a reporting process to the CDC medical facilitation," Jenson said.

"We are not the only ones that are sent to the Arizona Department of Health for testing and confirmation one way or another," Jenson said.

The Cochise County Health Department is responsible for reporting deaths, the area tracking and reporting illnesses which could then affect the community at large, Jenson said. Atlanta is the main hub for human cases, she is likely to become infected with West Nile virus.

"A vaccine for horses is available, Murphy said, and it's important for horse owners to make sure they get their animals tested."

There have been four cases of infected horses this year, which is a relatively decrease compared with years past, Murphy said.

The lawsuits, which were filed in 2005, in the court decision, Judge Stephen M. Desens found "as credible that DeJournett's removal of the dirt on Allen Street in fall 2005 caused the damage to the businesses and lawyers' offices,"

The lawsuit sought "the removal of dirt on Allen Street, the awarding of damages for the support of the dirt upon their businesses and lawyers' feet", DeJournett had the gravel and dirt removed to promote tourism and to preserve the city's "Uptown" landmark, Judge Desens placed on Allen Street in fall 2005. In the court decision, Judge Stephen M. Desens found "as credible that DeJournett's removal of the dirt on Allen Street in fall 2005 caused the damage to the businesses and lawyers' offices,"

Owners of businesses including Mr. Allen and Mr. Allen, O.K. Corral, and Humana, the hospital chain, filed a motion against DeJournett to dismiss the lawsuit but Judge Desens denied the motion. Owners of businesses included in the lawsuit include the O.K. Corral, the Western Stage Line, the Humana hospital chain, and the Mr. Allen and Mr. Allen law firm.

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Music can temporarily boost IQ

Mozart’s music may help people temporarily increase their IQ, researchers say. Scientists who studied brain waves in college students before and after listening to a Mozart piano sonata found that IQ tests given afterward revealed a significant increase. The researchers suggested that the music stimulated the right hemisphere of the brain, which is involved in creative thinking and spatial reasoning. They also noted that the effect was particularly pronounced in students who had previously scored lower on IQ tests. The study is the latest in a growing body of research suggesting that music can have a positive impact on cognitive function. However, more research is needed to determine the extent of the effect and whether it is lasting. 

Businesses fail to prove harm

In a surprising turn, a court has ruled that a company could not prove that its products were harmful to the environment. The company had claimed that its products caused harm to the environment, but the court ruled that the evidence presented was not sufficient to prove the claim. This decision could have significant implications for businesses that claim their products are harmful to the environment. It may also open the door for other businesses to challenge such claims. 

Plague can be a weapon

The United States is preparing for a potential outbreak of the plague, which is a highly contagious bacterial disease. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have issued a warning to healthcare providers and the public about the possibility of a plague outbreak. The CDC has recommended that healthcare providers be prepared to receive and treat patients with plague, and has urged the public to be aware of the signs and symptoms of the disease. The government has also taken steps to ensure that healthcare providers have the necessary resources to respond to a potential outbreak. 

City Hall has found new home

The City of Tombstone has found a new home for its city hall. The old city building, which has been vacant for several years, is being repurposed as an event space. The city council recently approved a master plan for the future of the building, which includes the possibility of turning it into a museum or other cultural facility. The plan also includes the possibility of using the building as a temporary home for the city hall. This decision could have significant implications for the city, as it may provide a much-needed boost to the local economy. 

Time to hunt, time to hike

The harvest of the monsoon season is upon us, and with it comes the opportunity for hunters and hikers to enjoy the great outdoors. The Southwest is home to some of the most beautiful and diverse landscapes in the world, and the monsoon season is the perfect time to explore them. Hunters and hikers alike can take advantage of the lush greenery and abundant wildlife that the monsoon season brings. Whether you’re a seasoned hunter or a casual hiker, there’s something for everyone in the Southwest during the monsoon season.
Running away with another win

On Sept. 29, the Tombstone Yellow Jackets defeated rival Benson High School at home to extend their undefeated streak to six games. Klinton Smuda, Daniel Dotson and quarterback Steve Hessil led the Yellow Jackets in a scoring frenzy Friday night. Together, the explosive offense outscored Benson High School by 21 points in a 43-22 victory. The defense forced the Bobcats into mistakes that led to multiple turnovers throughout the evening. Tonight the Yellow Jackets will face Thatcher High School in a tough challenge on the road. Come support your Yellow Jackets!

Top: The Benson defense chases Smuda toward the end zone. Left: Smuda dodges a Benson defender. Below: A referee disengages a Bobcat and Yellow Jacket whose helmets have tangled. Bottom: Players swap good-spirited handshakes after the game.
Tombstone return man Daniel Dotson blows past a Bobcat defender on his way down the field for an 87-yard touchdown run against Benson in Tombstone’s 43-22 win on Sept. 22.

By Michael Irish

The Tombstone Torch

The Tombstone High School football team opened the new season last week with a second touchdown of my life. I was 30-16 heading into halftime.

By Lance Essayn

The Tombstone Torch

Dotson’s return touchdown sparks Yellow Jackets in win

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The Tombstone High School varsity football team took on Benson on Sept. 22 and blew the Yellow Jackets away with scores of 22-30. The Yellow Jackets scored a second touchdown in the second half after halftime.

By Michael Irish

The Tombstone Torch

New field on hold for lack of funding

By Lance Essayn

The Tombstone Torch

Three-fourths of our kids from the old facility will be taken over by tradition, Bunnell said. “We have a tradition of this and that is what the kids know.”

By Katie Miller

The Tombstone Torch

On Sept. 3, the Tombstone High School Yellow Jackets’ girls volleyball team (7-2) travelled to Payson High School to compete in the Pima Invitational. The team played three games against tough opponents.

By Lance Essayn

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The following Bobcat possession resulted in them gaining 4 yards on 3rd and 18 and then 4 yards on 3rd and 12, which the Yellow Jackets were able to prevent.

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This play was a key turning point for the Tombstone Yellow Jackets.

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