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Officials: Mosquito spraying unrelated to flu-type illness

By **PATTY DECKER**

Free Press Editor

In recent days, there has been concern that the city's mosquito spraying might be causing flu-type symptoms in some people.

However, Gerry Bieker, public works director for the City of Colby, and Kathy Ryan, the Thomas County Health Nurse, both believe the two have nothing to do with each other.

"We have had reports of illnesses not only in Colby, but also in the Hoxie and the Atwood area," said Ryan, "with symptoms ranging from sore throats and fever to vomiting and diarrhea."

Ryan said she has received telephone calls asking about the 'bug' and said she has had appointments canceled or heard from others that children have been experiencing the aforementioned symptoms.

"I don't believe the mosquito spraying and these other symptoms are related, though, since it's my understanding that there's been no changes in the chemicals the city has used previously," she said. "It would seem the logical deduction is the two are unrelated."

In clarifying what type of chemical is used for mosquito spraying, Bieker said the product is called Fyfanon and the active ingredient is Malathion.

"The city uses this chemical in its lowest form possible and still do some good in killing mosquitoes," he said today.

"Four years ago," Bieker said, "the city also used Malathion, but it was mixed with diesel smoke so that it would drift into the areas we wanted it to go."

However, in recent years the city has gotten away from the old smoke fogger and went instead to an ultra low volume

machine which produces a fine mist and is less harsh than the diesel was.

"This newer machine is specifically made for mosquito fogging," he said, "and the fine mist can be compared to spraying out of an aerosol can."

The company that the city purchases the mosquito spray from is called, Cheminova in Wayne, N.J., and Bieker said it's considered the "number one" mosquito spray produced.

When asked about the flu-type symptoms, Bieker said that none of his employees who operate the equipment have experienced any kind of sore throats or respiratory problems.

In order to even feel any effect from the spray, he added that a person would have to be standing right behind the machine as it is moving down the streets. In the event someone would be exposed under those circumstances, the manufacturer's cautionary statement says the remedy would be in getting the victim into fresh air, he said.

"Basically other than drinking this chemical, there is no danger to people or animals," he said.

The city plans to continue spraying for mosquitoes as long as the weather remains hot and there continues to be moisture.

Typically, Bieker said, the city continues to spray for mosquitoes until the latter part of September and the spraying is usually done a couple of times per week throughout the city.

Residents are also being reminded to check their yards and empty anything that is holding stagnant water, such as cans, swimming pools, tires, etc., to keep the mosquito population to a minimum.

For questions or other information, call Bieker at 462-4420 or Ryan at 462-4596.



DARREL PATTILLO/Colby Free Press

It was standing room only at the Heartland Christian School Sunday during their grand opening. The events included a dedication service, refreshments, open house and a ribbon cutting. ABOVE: Leah Raymo

carried the Christian flag along with Shawna Goossen, who carried the American flag, at the beginning of the dedication with more than 300 people looking on.

Hundreds welcome school to Colby

By **DARREL PATTILLO**

Colby Free Press

A large crowd turned out Sunday afternoon to help welcome Heartland Christian School to Colby. The school, with an enrollment of 56 students pre-kindergarten through eighth-grade, is located at the west edge of town, on the site formerly known as the Colby Plaza.

The buildings may look the same from the outside, but inside, major renovations have taken place. The old Dollar General store is now where the main classrooms are located, and the old IGA store will soon be a gymnasium.

"We're going to have athletic fields north of (the former) Gibson's," said Rick Roberts, the school's administrator.

"We hope to have those done by next spring, if we can get a little cooperation from Mother Nature. We should have the playground done this year." The playground will be located just north of the school rooms.

Heartland Christian School was started in 1995, in Mingo. They moved the offices to Colby in July, and Tuesday will be the first day of school.

In addition to the dedication service, Sunday's grand opening featured refreshments, an open house, and a ribbon cutting with the Colby Chamber of Commerce.

"We're very proud to have Heartland Christian School in Colby," said Mayor Warren Hixson. "They'll be a valuable part of this community for years to come."

Discovery of remains is called 'sad conclusion' to investigation

OREGON CITY, Ore. (AP)—An FBI agent said the mystery of two Oregon girls who disappeared from their apartment complex appeared to be solved after officials searching a neighbor's home identified the body of one girl and found a second set of remains.

Police said the unidentified second body was found in a barrel beneath a cement slab Ward Weaver poured after the disappearance of

Miranda Gaddis and Ashley Pond, both 13.

"Obviously, this is a very sad conclusion to this investigation," said Charles Mathews, the FBI's special agent in charge in Oregon. "On the other hand, I think the case has been resolved."

Weaver has not been charged, but Matthews said Sunday that he is a suspect in the case. It was the first time any law enforcement official

has identified him a suspect. Weaver, 39, told reporters months ago he was a subject in the investigation but denied any involvement in the disappearance. Agents discovered remains Saturday of one body stashed in a shed behind the house, and on Sunday said they belonged to Miranda. They did not identify the remains found Sunday.

Weaver agreed to the search because he

wanted to "bring closure to the families," his attorney, Timothy Lyons, told The Oregonian. Lyons did not elaborate. Authorities have not said why Weaver needed to consent to the search since he already had been evicted from the house.

Lyons would not comment Sunday, but his assistant said they were spending the day, "getting organized."

Weaver has been jailed since Aug. 13 when he was charged with raping his 19-year-old son's girlfriend. The angry and distraught son told 911 dispatchers on the night of the alleged rape that his father had confessed to killing Ashley and Miranda.

Weaver said Ashley was a friend of his daughter who frequently stayed overnight at their house.

Large crowd expected at Horticulture Day here Wednesday

By **DARREL PATTILLO**

Colby Free Press

The 2002 Horticulture Field Day at the Northwest Research-Extension Center in Colby is Wednesday.

Landscape supervisor Rodney Zimmerman says the annual event is always well-attended. "We're expecting flower clubs from Wichita, and altogether we're expecting 350-plus people."

The field day starts at 3 p.m. with a tour of the grounds conducted by Terry Mannell of the Ellis County Extension office. Registration and a free meal will be a 5 p.m., followed by a welcome from Northwest Area Director for K-State Research and Extension Reba White at 5:50 p.m..

At 6 p.m., the seminars get underway.

"There will be seven different presentations," Zimmerman said. "They be at 30-minute intervals, all over the grounds, so everyone should be able to get to at least five of them."

Also scheduled are youth activities and educational booths. For the kids, they'll be making a chia pet, an edible insect, and there will be a variety of paper activities. Booths will include a Kansas Butterfly wheel and collection display, there will be tomato and peppers trials, a master gardeners booth, and booth featuring the K-State Aerospace Experience.

Admission is free and the public is invited.



DARREL PATTILLO/Colby Free Press

Landscape supervisor Rodney Zimmerman made final preparations to the flowers as the Northwest Research-Extension Center in Colby gets ready for the Horticulture field Day Wednesday.

Briefly

Girl Scout registration set

Registration for Girl Scouts will be Thursday from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Colby Girl Scout Center, 520 West Fifth, in the basement of Puddle Duck Preschool. For information contact Shannon Koon at 462-6662.

Meeting planned to recruit EMTs

The Thomas County Emergency Medical Services will have an informational meeting on Thursday, beginning at 7 p.m. for the purpose of recruiting interested people in becoming emergency medical technicians. Everyone is invited to attend. For questions or information, call Kathi Wright, director, at 462-4585.

Actors sought for fall production

The Colby Community College drama department will be conducting auditions for the fall production of *Scapino!* by Frank Dunlop and Jim Dale on Wednesday and Thursday, Sept. 4-5. Auditions will begin at 7 p.m. in the Cultural Arts Center on the Colby College campus. The auditions are open to students and the community, said Walter Yuhre, drama instructor, and will

consist of reading from the script. "Actors who have prepared monologues are invited to perform their audition pieces," he said. The play will feature roles for both men and women between the ages of 18 to 65 with performance dates of Nov. 7, 8 and 9. For questions or information, call Yuhre at 462-4783.

Democrats invited to meeting

The Thomas County Democratic Central Committee will meet on Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in the Thomas County Office Complex. All interested Democrats are invited to attend. This is the re-organization meeting and plans for fund raising will be discussed, said Rosalie Seemann, one of the coordinators of the event.

Vendors sought for fall festival

The Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce is seeking vendors for the "Celebration on the High Plains Fall Festival," scheduled to begin at 10 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 7, at Southwind Plaza in Colby. All types of booths are welcome to include food booths, various types of exhibitors, along with those wanting to do demonstrations or sell crafts and other items. For questions or details on booth prices for this event, call 462-3401.



Thumbs Up!



✓Heartland Christian School — on your new look, successful grand opening and good luck with the new school term.

✓Brad Skolout & Justin Alexander — on your appointments to the Fair Board.

✓Firefighters — on Saturday's "Fill the Boot" drive for MDA.

✓Drs. Gary Morsch & Ned Nixon Jr. — members of new medical group serving the Colby area.

✓Video Volunteers — for a fine glimpse of Colby/Thomas County as seen on Smoky Hills Public Television Saturday night.

✓Tuffy Taylor — and thanks for the assist at Saturday evening's picnic.

(Call us at 462-3963 to have a name or names submitted for consideration in this weekly salute.)

WeatherWatch Colby-Oakley area

The numbers
Sunday's high, 87
Low this morning, 64
Year ago today, 90 and 51
Temperature at 11:30 a.m. today, 82
Colby's weekend rainfall, 0.25
Month's total to date, 1.98
Soil temp at the 4-inch depth, 78
Records for Aug. 26, 107 in 1926 and 41 in 1910

The forecast
Today will find temperatures climbing into the upper 80s. Tonight, a 30 percent chance for showers or thunderstorms, lows in the middle 60s, southeast winds up to 10 mph. Tuesday, partly sunny, a 30 percent chance for showers or thunderstorms, highs in the lower 80s, south winds 10-20 mph. Tuesday night, cloudy, a 20 percent chance for showers or thunderstorms, lows in the lower 60s. Wednesday, cloudy, a 20 percent chance for showers or thunderstorms, highs in the lower 80s. (Temperatures and precipitation are from the Northwest Research-Extension Center, unless otherwise noted. Forecast is from the National Weather Service.)

Colby Water Usage
• Aug. 23-24-25 = averaged 1.833 million gallons each day
Levels of Concern
Watch Level 3.5 million gallons
Warning Level 4.0 million gallons
Emergency Level 4.5 million gallons
(Three consecutive days)

