

Six new measles cases crop up in Garden City

Six cases of measles have been identified in Garden City this month. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment urges people who are ill or exhibiting measles-like symptoms to stay at home unless they are seeking medical attention.

On Tuesday, Jan. 10, the department was notified of two cases of measles. Both cases were within the same family household and had recent international travel. The onset date of rash was Tuesday, Jan. 3, and Thursday, Jan. 5. The first two cases were seen by the emergency department before being admitted to the hospital. Four additional cases - two within the same family and two outside the household - have subsequently occurred. The cases have been linked by documented contact.

The Finney County Health Department and the state department are working to identify contacts among the general public and health care personnel. With an

average incubation period of 10 to 14 days, secondary cases are now appearing outside the initial family.

Measles is a respiratory disease caused by a virus. It causes fever, runny nose, tiredness, cough and a blotchy rash all over the body. Measles is spread through the air by breathing, coughing or sneezing. It is so contagious that any person who is exposed to it and is not immune will probably get the disease. Measles can be spread to others from four days before to four days after the rash appears.

"If you are ill with fever, stay home except to see a health care provider. If you need to seek health care, call ahead so appropriate measures can be taken to protect other patients and staff. In some cases, measles can result in secondary illnesses such as bronchitis, pneumonia and encephalitis," said Dr. Robert Moser, department secretary and state health officer.

Two doses of measles, mumps

and rubella vaccine - the first dose at 12 to 15 months and the second at 4 to 6 years - are routinely recommended for all children. Though the second dose of the vaccine may be given earlier in some circumstances the state health department is not recommending any changes to the routine schedule at this time. All persons born during or after 1957 should have documentation of at least one shot or other evidence of immunity. Certain groups of adults may be at increased risk for exposure to measles. Adults attending colleges or other post high school educational institutions, working medical facilities or traveling internationally should be assessed to ensure they are properly immunized.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment EPI hotline is available to answer question about potential disease outbreaks (877) 427-7317.

City staff looking at long-term power contract with Sunflower Electric

POWER, from Page 1

city's public works shop east to the connection with Sunflower.

Commissioner Bill Finley asked about maintaining the power plant.

"That seven-mile line has gone down multiple times," he said. "We would have been in the dark for days without (the power plant)."

Gerber said it has always been the board policy to maintain the power plant, and the capacity credits built into the contract could be as much as \$88,000 a year.

Looney said it is in both the city's and Sunflower's best interest to keep the power plant

Sunflower is a non-profit co-operative that sells power to smaller co-operatives rather than individual users. The managers of those co-ops form the board of directors. In some cases, such as Goodland, it also sells wholesale power to municipalities.

Looney said Sunflower doesn't recover anything over its costs, and gives any profit back to its members as credits.

Under the current contract, the city has the choice of firm priced energy or variable, which fluctuates based on energy cost. Since 2008, natural gas prices have been low, so the city has been using the variable rate. Looney said experts expect those prices to come back up again soon.

Because municipalities can't be members, however, Goodland also has a three-mill adder on the contract.

Gerber said the city staff likes the existing contract, and while they did shop around for other offers, they settled on Sunflower again because it offers a longer-term contract. One group had a seven-year contract, but Gerber said the staff never felt comfortable with that group.

The city commission gave Gerber the go-ahead to continue contract negotiations.

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Hospital gets safety certificate

HOSPITAL, from Page 1

of staff.

Some of the oncologists from the Callahan Cancer Center at Great Plains Regional Medical Center in North Platte, Neb., visited Goodland. Jolly said they were doing outreach at smaller hospitals.

• Reappointed Dr. David Beck, a general surgeon, and physician assistant Robin Williamson. Both were recommended by the staff.

• Heard a proposal from board chair Patty Eckhardt to form an information technology committee. She suggested Jolly, board member Patrick Gleason and Kevin Sanderson get together to work out particulars.

• Approved one change to the emergency medical services contract with Sherman County. If damage to an ambulance exceeds \$7,500 on a single incident or \$30,000 total, the county will handle the repair or replacement. The hospital will be responsible for anything less than that. The change was made at the county's request.

Atwood hospital finishing new wing

Rawlins County Health Center moved inpatients to the new wing Thursday afternoon. The new emergency room will be open at 8 a.m. Monday. Until then, the old emergency room will be operational.

Emergency parking and entrance can be found on the east side of the new wing. It can be accessed from 8th Street or from Highway 36.

For information, call (785) 626-3211.

The Goodland Star-News Ad Deadlines
For Tuesday papers Friday Noon
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Publishes Tuesday, February 14, 2012

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Basic Ad 1x2: Option 1

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XOXOXO
A.R.
You are the light of my life.
Love, R.R.
XOXOXO

PRICE: \$15.90

Basic Ad 1x1: Option 2

Choice of 1 graphic and text

To my true love,
Amy...Happy Valentines Day!
Love, A.B.

Choice of 1 Artwork:



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Select style Ad 1 Retro Heart Ad 2 Simple Heart Ad 3 Cupids Ad 4 Pet Paws

Basic ad 1x2 (Option 1): XOXO Graphic & text...\$15.90

Basic ad 1x1 (Option 2): 1 Graphic & text...\$7.95

Select graphic Teddy Bear Love heart Lips

Deadline
February 10 at
3 p.m. MT

The Goodland Star-News
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Goodland, KS 67735

Photo, message and payment must be received at our office by Friday, February 13, 2012. Ads must be pre-paid. For good reproduction, photos must be clear. Include a self-addressed stamped envelope for return of photo.