

Several black widow spiders spotted in Sainty



Black Widow Spider

Several black widow spiders have been spotted in St. Francis.

Dawn and Dave Fry have seen two and there are probably others. We just want people to be aware that this could be a good year for them and to be looking for them, Dawn said.

There are two black widows – the black widow and the northern widow, found in Kansas. They are found in undisturbed sites such as window wells, cellars, crawl spaces, garages and infrequently cleaned buildings. They also live in hollow logs and stumps, abandoned animal burrows and spaces beneath fallen fence posts.

The black widow spider is easily spotted by its red markings. The female has a large, shiny black abdomen marked with red and there is a distinct red hour-glass on the back. The northern widow is similarly marked but the hour glass is broken into two separate spots but with no other markings.

The male widows are much smaller and slender. They have three or four red or yellow spots on each side of the abdomen.

According to a pamphlet from Kansas State Extension service, the spiders are not aggressive unless their webs are bothered. They may also bite if they are in a shoe or tight place and are disturbed.

The widow spider venom contains a neurotoxin and the bite usually causes an immediate, sharp pain followed by a burning sensation, localized swelling and redness. Pain may become intense after an hour or two and last for up to two days.

The victim may experience aching cramps in the abdomen, shoulders, back, chest and limbs. Abdominal muscles may become rigid. Other symptoms may include headache, nausea, tremors, weakness salivation, difficulty in speaking, swollen

eyelids, breathing problems and a slight rise in temperature. Small children and the elderly are often the most severely affected.

When a person has been bitten by a widow spider, keep the victim calm and immediately take him to a doctor or emergency room. If the spider can be safely captured, take it to the doctor for verification. The victim may need to be hospitalized. Fatalities are uncommon and healthy victims usually recover quickly.



THE CHEYENNE COUNTY MUSEUM—came alive as docents told about early settlers. Above, Kay Shay tells about being in front of the kitchen stove way back then. To the right is a picture of the Old Country Church.



Club Clips

Lawn Ridge 4-H

The Lawn Ridge 4-H Club met at the clubhouse on June 3 at 7:15 p.m. Acting president Valerie Wurm called the meeting to order. Jylian Laten led the club in the flag salute. Gavin Lennox led the club in singing Twinkle Twinkle Little Star. Roll call was answered by 8 members and two leaders. Secretary Bailey Merklin read the minutes from the previous meeting. There was no communications or treasurers report. Valerie announced that the teen leaders were going to meet at the roadside park on Friday night at 6:00. Lynn Laten talked about the 4-H council meeting. Christy Wurm reported on the Ronald McDonald House trip we will be taking on Sunday. We will meet at the courthouse at 7:45 and head up to Denver. We will cook a meal, deliver toys to the hospital and pick up supplies for the 4-H booth.

Under old business, we discussed the fair booth. We will be getting started on that project real soon. We also discussed

fair window paintings. Natasha will get with Peggy and get that started in the end of June. There was no new business.

Jylian gave a project talk on making Para cord bracelets. Valerie read the announcements. The next meeting will be the club tour. The tour committee

will send out cards with the details. Schuyler Lennox led the 4-H pledge. Echoe Lennox moved to adjourn the meeting. Refreshments were served by the Lennox family.

Valerie Wurm
Club reporter

Helpful Hints

You have read the newspaper and it is ready to be recycled. Here are a few ways to recycle that newspaper:

- Dry shoes. Place crumpled paper in them overnight.
- Wrap gifts. Use the comics to wrap a child's birthday gift, or try the wedding announcements for an engagement gift.
- Create a home for slushy snow boots. During the winter, keep a pile of newspaper near the entryway. When your little snowmen and -women come home, they can toss their winter

wear onto the newspaper instead of creating puddles on the floor.

- Prepare a garden. In the fall, mow a patch of lawn to make room for a dedicated bed. Cover it with four layers of newspaper, then a four-inch layer of shredded leaves or bark mulch. Hose it down. Come spring, the compost blanket will have smothered the grass roots, and the bed will be primed for planting.
- Keep the refrigerator vegetable drawer dry and free of smells. Line the bottom with newspaper.

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