

# Ag lenders to meet twice

Kansas State University will hold its 2012 Agricultural Lenders Conference on Tuesday, Oct. 9, in Garden City and Wednesday, Oct. 10, in Manhattan. The Oct. 9 conference will be held at the K-State Southwest Research-Extension Center at 4500 E. Mary St. in Garden City. The Oct. 10 conference will take place at K-State's International Grains Program Conference Center at 1980 Kimball Ave. in Manhattan. Cost is \$85 if paid by Oct. 4, or \$95 after that date or at the door. The fee includes conference materials and lunch. More information and online registration are available at [www.agmanager.info/events/ag\\_lenders/2012/default.asp](http://www.agmanager.info/events/ag_lenders/2012/default.asp).

# K-State has tips for avoiding West Nile

While the summer's widespread and severe drought negatively affected agriculture production in many areas, it does not appear to have significantly affected the mosquito population, with this year on track to have the highest number of West Nile cases since the virus was first detected in the U.S. in 1999.

Mosquitoes act as the vector carrying the West Nile virus from avian reservoirs to other mammals, particularly humans and horses. More than 1,500 cases of West Nile have been reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, with 65 deaths. While the worst of the outbreak has been in Texas, Kansans have not escaped unscathed by the virus, with 19 reported cases and one death as of Aug. 28. "The chances are real," said Ludek

Zurek, entomologist with K-State Research and Extension. He said about 80 percent of people who contract West Nile exhibit no symptoms and simply develop long-lasting immunity as a result of exposure. Many of these cases are unreported. The other 20 percent experience flu-like symptoms and may not be diagnosed with the virus.

According to the CDC, only one in 150 positive cases will develop into the neuro-invasive form of the virus that can lead to paralysis and death. For Zurek, even that small chance is enough to warrant active preventive measures.

"When I see my daughters being bitten by mosquitoes, I don't like it - no matter how low the chances are that you get it," he said. "As long as there is a chance, it's better to prevent being

bitten by mosquitoes." Since human vaccines against West Nile are still being developed, the best way to prevent contracting the virus is to avoid mosquito bites. Zurek recommended wearing long sleeves and pants, as well as a DEET-based insect repellent, especially at dawn and dusk or in areas where mosquito populations are high.

"Usually about 30 percent DEET concentration is plenty," Zurek said. "Higher concentrations don't offer better protection. Read the label to see how often to reapply."

People can also reduce the mosquito population by eliminating standing water around their home and property. Smaller containers of water, such as pet dishes or birdbaths, should be dumped

once a week, Zurek said. Placing a few goldfish in water containers for livestock or horses prevents mosquitoes from breeding.

The end of the summer is typically the peak for human West Nile cases. Zurek urged people to be aware and take necessary precautionary measures. While West Nile usually affects people age 50 and older, or people with weakened immune systems, it has been known to affect people of all ages.

"Just because you are young does not mean you are 100 percent bullet proof from West Nile," he said. "It is true that older people are more susceptible to it. But people from any age category have died from it. So it's best to be on the safe side, be aware of the risk and lower it to minimum."

# Five West Nile cases confirmed

WEST NILE, from Page 1

or the one person who died. She said the department doesn't have any idea why the cases have seemed to cluster in the south central part of the state.

The virus can be spread to people through bites from infected mosquitoes, said Steele, but it is not contagious from person to person.

"Symptoms range from a slight headache and low-grade fever to swelling of the brain or brain tissue and in rare cases, death," she said. "People who have had West Nile virus before are considered immune."

Incidences declined sharply after

2003, probably due to immunity people developed through exposure to the virus. Steele said that after exposure to the virus, like some other infectious diseases, the body produces antibodies and becomes immune.

She said the department recommends some precautions to protect against the virus, since it is still the time of year when cases are most common. They normally range from late summer to early fall.

• When outdoors, use insect repellent on skin and clothing containing an Environmental Protection Agency-registered active ingredient, including DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus or IR3535.

• Mosquitoes are most active at dusk and dawn, so be sure to use insect repellent and wear long sleeves and pants at these times or consider staying indoors.

• Make sure you have good screens on your windows and doors.

• Get rid of mosquito breeding sites by emptying standing water from flower pots, buckets and barrels. Change the water in pet dishes and bird baths weekly. Drill holes in tire swings so water drains out and keep children's wading pools empty and on their sides when they aren't being used.

For more information, go to [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) for a fact sheet, "West Nile Virus: What you Need to Know."

# Third mini-easel painting unveiled

PAINTING, from Page 1

making the sun one of the primary parts of the painting. First said they also used the Native American idea that all things are connected, and so made each element of the painting connected to all the other elements.

Schnabel said he enjoyed the entire project. He said he worked mostly on the top portion of the painting.

Coates said she also liked working on the painting from start to finish, which First said took about 30 hours all together.

This is the third Art in the Park painting to be installed. The other two are in Gulick and Steever Parks. Art in the Park is sponsored by the City of Goodland, the Carnegie Arts Council and Goodland Public Schools.

# Area teens killed in crashes

CRASHES, from Page 1

Jeffrey was taken to Greeley County Hospital. He had also not been wearing a seatbelt.

One of the victims of an accident Wednesday in Sheridan County has died. Jaimie Labrado, 17, of Selden, died Saturday at Wesley Medical Center in Wichita of injuries he suffered in the wreck. He had been a student at Golden Plains High School.

The wreck took place about 14 miles north of Hoxie. Labrado, along with Jesse Mumm, 18, of Vian Okla., and Colten Wachendorfer, 17, of Selden, were

driving north on K-23 in a 022 Pontiac Firebird about 9:45 p.m. Wednesday. Wachendorfer, the driver, skidded sideways as he came up to a stop sign and went into a ditch to the north. The car rolled and came to rest on its wheels.

All three victims were taken to Wesley Medical Center. Wachendorfer and Mumm are listed in fair condition. Mumm and Labrado had been wearing seatbelts.

Highway Patrol Trooper John Gizzarelli told the Colby Free Press last week that some substance abuse may have been involved.

# Scoutmaster stole from troop

PACK, from Page 1

scoutmaster a treasurer during his time with the cub scouts. He used the scouts money to pay his taxes and help buy himself a new house, among other personal expenses.

"He wrote checks for personal expenses out of the cub scout check book," she said. "He got the bills, he had the check book, he did it all."

Schuette resigned after the pack's annual popcorn fundraiser, when the Coronado Council contacted

the pack to say they had no money to pay for the popcorn. Zerr said the council's willingness to forgive the money has helped keep the pack afloat.

## Classifieds work!! 899-2338

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