

Conditions are right for West Nile virus

BEND (AP) — Thanks to a unique combination of climate and geography, Oregon has escaped both animal and human cases of West Nile virus so far. But with infected states now on all sides, health officials say the chances of the virus hitting are all but certain.

The good news is a state's first season is usually mild, health experts say. But the bad news is Central Oregon's irrigated fields,

cloudless summer days, marshy river basins and an abundance of *Culex tarsalis* — a species of mosquito ruthlessly efficient at spreading the virus — could make Central Oregon an ideal breeding ground for West Nile-infected larvae.

"I would be very surprised if we don't see West Nile in this state before the end of 2004," said Mari DeReus, communicable disease coordinator with

Deschutes County. "We have everything here that would support that particular virus."

And while officials caution against panic — only one in 150 persons infected with the virus develop a severe form of the disease — that doesn't mean people shouldn't get ready, they say.

Just ask Cindy Parmenter, director of communications for the Colorado Public Health and

Environment department. Residents in that state were woefully unprepared for a surprisingly virulent season — the state's second — of West Nile that struck last summer.

The virus infected 2,477 people and killed 45, the most in the nation.

"People didn't take the warnings seriously. They thought, 'Oh, it would never happen to me,'" Parmenter said. "Now

there are people still recovering from it, some of whom have permanent disabilities."

Nationwide, West Nile infected more than 9,300 people last year, killing 244, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. That's more than double the number of cases reported in 2002, although fatalities remained steady. The higher case numbers may be due to increased surveillance, the

CDC said. The disease first hit the nation in New York in 1999, and has been progressing west ever since. It is carried into new states by infected birds, who become hosts for local bird-feeding mosquitoes. Those bugs spread the disease to humans. The virus is harmful to humans, some mammals, and horses, who are particularly susceptible to the illness: 30 percent of horses infected with the virus die.

Area crops at risk of bug infestation

BEND (AP) — Last year, an army of aphids feasted on hay fields in Central Oregon.

This year, the pests are expected to be back in full force, with a new sidekick: hungry mites.

That's bad news for the 83,000 acres of alfalfa and other hay farmed in the region last year, Central Oregon's No. 1 crop, according to OSU Extension's agriculture information network.

For the entire state in 2002, the hay crop was valued at \$218 million, according to the Oregon

Department of Agriculture.

Aphids and mites attack the hay crop by piercing and sucking all the juices out of a plant until the plant dries up and dies, said Mylen Bohle, crops agent for Oregon State University's extension service in Prineville.

The dehydration of the plant turns grasses and plants a brownish-color. Then the pests move onto the next juicy plant.

Bob Houts, a Madras hay farmer, lost more than 40 acres — half his hay — to the plump, soft-bodied pests last year.

"You can see them munch-

ing on the fields," he said. "You could see the hay melt in front of you."

There are two kinds of aphids that are common in Oregon — the Pea and the Blue Alfalfa aphids. Last year the big surprise was the arrival of the Cowpea aphid from California, for which farmers were unprepared. Ladybugs and other insects will eat aphids; farmers also can use insecticides to kill off the pests.

As for mites, they only come out in 55 to 75 degree weather when there is no wind, no sun

and no rain, said Rick Leeper, crop consultant for Round Butte Seed Growers Inc. in Bend.

Mites, which took dozens of farmer's fields last year, can cause more problems than aphids because there is no legal insecticide that effectively kills the pests, Bohle said.

The best solution, he said, is to burn the fields. But burning too early in the season will not create a hot enough burn to destroy the diseases and insects, he said, and burning too late could cause damage to the grass.

Good financial news for schools

PORTLAND (AP) — The financial outlook for Oregon public schools is improving along with the economy, according to revenue estimates from the Oregon Department of Education. The estimates mean program and staff cuts triggered by voter rejection of the Measure 30 income-tax surcharge won't be as deep as projected. Overall, cuts in state school funding will be about two-thirds as deep as originally expected, the Or-

egonian newspaper reported in Monday editions.

"The revenue picture is not good, but it is certainly not as bad as we were led to believe earlier," said Kent Hunsaker, director of the Oregon Confederation of School Administrators, which tracks state money for Oregon's 199 school districts.

A few districts probably will cut school days this year, but other districts will see dramatic, positive change.

In the Tribal Court of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs

Dorothy Henry, petitioner, vs. Anthony Henry, respondent, case No. DO02-04. To Dorothy Henry and Anthony Henry. You are hereby notified that a petition for DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE has been filed with the Warm Springs Tribal Court. All of the facts in this case will be heard at this hearing, including evidence you wish to present. You must appear to present your argument or the other side will automatically win. The petitioner, WS Utilities, may then be given all that is asked for in the petition for dissolution of marriage. The petitioner will be present at the hearing. If you desire to personally argue your side of the case, you may have a legal aide, spokesperson or attorney appear on your behalf at your expense. If you have questions, seek legal advice. Judge Lola Sohapp, Tribal Court.

notice you are hereby summoned to appear in this matter at a hearing scheduled for 11 a.m. April 26, 2004, at the Warm Springs Tribal Court. All of the facts in this case will be heard at this hearing, including evidence you wish to present. You must appear to present your argument or the other side will automatically win. The petitioner, WS Utilities, may then be given all that is asked for in the petition for civil complaint. The petitioner will be present at the hearing. If you desire to personally argue your side of the case, you may have a legal aide, spokesperson or attorney appear on your behalf at your expense. If you have questions, seek legal advice. Judge Wilma Ann Smith, Tribal Court.

McMahan's Furniture, petitioner, vs. Cecilia Polk, respondent, case No. IN16-04. To Cecilia Polk: You are hereby notified that a petition for OVERDUE ACCOUNT has been filed with the Warm Springs Tribal Court. By this notice you are hereby summoned to appear in this matter at a hearing scheduled for 1:30 p.m. April 7, 2004, at the Warm Springs Tribal Court. All of the facts in this case will be heard at this hearing, including evidence you wish to present. You must appear to present your argument

or the other side will automatically win. The petitioner, McMahan's Furniture, may then be given all that is asked for in the petition for overdue account. The petitioner will be present at the hearing. If you desire to personally argue your side of the case, you may have a legal aide, spokesperson or attorney appear on your behalf at your expense. If you have questions, seek legal advice. Judge Wilma Ann Smith, Tribal Court.

Ralph's TV & Repair, petitioner, vs. Angelina Stacona, respondent, case No. IN26-03. To Angelina Stacona. You are hereby notified that a petition for OVERDUE ACCOUNT has been filed with the Warm Springs Tribal Court. By this notice you are hereby summoned to appear in this matter at a hearing scheduled for 10 a.m. April 7, 2004, at the Warm Springs Tribal Court. All of the facts in this case will be heard at this hearing, including evidence you wish to present. You must appear to present your argument or the other side will automatically win. The petitioner, Ralph's TV & Repair, may then be given all that is asked for in the petition for overdue account. The petitioner will be present at the hearing. If you desire to personally argue your side of the case, you

may have a legal aide, spokesperson or attorney appear on your behalf at your expense. If you have questions, seek legal advice. Judge Wilma Ann Smith, Tribal Court.

Credit Services of Oregon, petitioner, vs. Dennis and Linda Thompson, respondents, case No. IN88-03. To Dennis and Linda Thompson: You are hereby notified that a petition for OVERDUE ACCOUNT has been filed with the Warm Springs Tribal Court. By this notice you are hereby summoned to appear in this matter at a hearing scheduled for 10:30 a.m. April 7, 2004, at the Warm Springs Tribal Court. All of the facts in this case will be heard at this hearing, including evidence you wish to present. You must appear to present your argument or the other side will automatically win. The petitioner, Credit Services of Oregon, may then be given all that is asked for in the petition for overdue account. The petitioner will be present at the hearing. If you desire to personally argue your side of the case, you may have a legal aide, spokesperson or attorney appear on your behalf at your expense. If you have questions, seek legal advice. Judge Wilma Ann Smith, Tribal Court.

In the Probate Department of the Tribal Court of the Warm Springs Reservation

For the following probate cases, Notice to Creditors is hereby given:

That all persons having claims against the estate are required to present their claims, with proper voucher, to the Warm Springs Tribal Probate, P.O. Box 850, Warm Springs OR 97761, within 90 days from the date upon notice first being posted. Notice also is hereby given that the above entitled court has appointed Richard Toht as administrator to administer the decedent's estate, subject to Tribal Court jurisdiction. The probate cases are as follows:

In the matter of the Estate of **Gaylor Heath**, deceased, Estate file No. 000-PR02-04. Gaylor Heath, who resided in Warm Springs, Oregon, passed away on Jan. 7, 2004. Notice was first posted on March 11, 2004.

In the matter of the Estate of **Charles Johnny Clark**, deceased, Estate file No. 072-PR27-03. Charles Johnny Clark, who resided in LaConner, Wash., passed away on Sept. 16, 2003. Notice was first posted on March 11, 2004.

In the matter of the Estate of **Gale Lawrence Sr.**, deceased, Estate file No. 099-PR99-03. Gale Lawrence Sr., who resided in Warm Springs, Oregon, passed away on Dec. 30, 2003. Notice was first posted on March 10, 2004.

In the matter of the Estate of **Gale Lawrence Jr.**, deceased, Estate file No. 098-PR98-03. Gale Lawrence Jr., who resided in Warm Springs, Oregon, passed away on Dec. 30, 2003. Notice was first posted on March 10, 2004.

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