

Take preventive measures now that West Nile is here in Oregon

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stepped up both its larval and adult mosquito control measures in response to the increased risk of mosquito-borne disease. The district is also continuing to monitor for the

virus in both mosquitoes and birds.

DeBess said the findings should alert Oregonians to the need for precautions against the virus, which is transmitted to humans by mosquitoes.

Flood zone information provided

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a Design Flood Elevation (DFE). The hydraulic analysis is important within the city limits because some properties have moved from flood zone X to flood zone AE with the new mapping done by the Army Corps of Engineers.

In the unincorporated rural areas within the County, there is only zone A without established elevations. The height of zone A is defined by the Flood of Record, meaning there has not been a Base Flood or Design Flood Elevation established by hydraulic analysis. The area of enforcement outside of zone A is referred to as zone X and is also regulated by the Flood of Record.

While both City and rural

County A zones require maintaining flood insurance on the property, it is not necessary in flood zone X. However, if the property was flooded in 1996 or in 2007, flood insurance is recommended.

A ruling received for the City will maximize assistance by using Increased Cost of Compliance (ICC) outside of zone A in the X zone. ICC is additional money provided through flood insurance for the purpose of mitigating a home against a future flood. The same ruling is being sought for the X zone in the unincorporated areas of the county. CCFR also hopes to secure the use of Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Funds within the X zones.

Most infections are mild, with fever and flu-like symptoms, but severe infections may cause inflammation of the brain and, rarely, death.

In 2007 Oregon recorded 27 human cases of West Nile virus, with two cases acquired by Oregonians who became infected in other states. For the past two years the first evidence of the virus has been found in Baker County.

Most of the human cases in

2007 occurred in eastern Oregon, with 12 cases originating in Malheur County, just south of Baker County.

Washington State health officials also received word of the first West Nile virus activity in that state this year, with a positive mosquito pool found in Benton County.

WNV Prevention Advice:

- Use insect repellents containing DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon, eucalyptus, or IR3535.

- Avoid being outdoors when mosquitoes are most active.

- Wear long sleeve shirts, long pants, and a hat to reduce bites.

- Check screen doors and windows for openings that might allow mosquitoes indoors.

- Decrease standing water to the greatest extent possible, particularly around the home.

Recipes sought for cookbook

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"We want your favorite turkey stuffing, bean salad, or cherry pie recipe. And if you have a favorite recipe for a household cleaning powder or a lemon honey drink for a sore throat, send that, too!"

Century ranch and farm family members who would like to contribute to the cookbook should contact Richard Engeman by phone at 503-235-9032; email info@oregonrediva.com; or by mail at 8512 SE 13th Avenue, Portland, OR 97202.

Letters

From page 3

Each day brings more alarming news, as banks and brokerage firms fail. Financial leaders are at sea, as this quote from the July 19 *NY Times* indicates:

"Even to many economists who recently thought the gloom was overblown, the situation looks grim. The economy is in the midst of a very rough patch. The worst is probably still ahead." (Uncomfortable Answers NYT 7/19/08)

The hardest part of economic insecurity is that we often face it in isolation. We feel alone with our problems, facing big, impersonal forces. We feel vulnerable, and guilty, as if it were all our own fault. The media is not much help, mixing

fragmented stories about complicated economic issues with advertisements to buy more and more.

In this type of situation, it's easy to move from fear and shame into anger. Especially if political activists present a plausible 'enemy', preferably one that can't really fight back. This is what is behind the anti-immigration sentiment now being fanned nationwide, and here in Columbia County.

Immigrants, legal or illegal, have had nothing to do with the current economic meltdown. The causes of financial pain are complicated (though not TOO complicated – can you say 'Corporate greed'?). It's much easier to yell about illegal

immigrants taking away jobs. That's a story about foreign looking people sneaking over the border, an understandable, petty crime, unlike the megacrimes being perpetrated by people in expensive suits who look like our leaders.

Anti-immigration activists claim that their targets are employers who hire undocumented workers. But look at how this really shakes out. In May, the Feds raided a slaughterhouse in Postville, Iowa. The company owners face federal prosecution with their lawyers and bail bondsmen at the ready. 300 workers, on the other hand, were shackled together and herded into a cattle pen where they were processed, charged

and convicted without any due process.

Across the country, crack-downs on illegal immigrants have resulted in similar mass arrests and deportations, the abandonment of young children, as well as violence and maltreatment in the new, massive immigration deportation centers. This is ethnic cleansing, not law enforcement.

Meanwhile, the crackdown on illegal immigrants has turned into a crackdown on union organizing, with union officials all over the country facing prosecution for failing to turn in union members who did not have papers.

In November, Columbia County voters will be asked to

decide on two anti-immigration ballot measures. One would impose a \$10,000.00 fine on any business found to be employing undocumented workers. The other one would mandate that 4'x8' signs be posted at every construction site stating 'Legal Workers Only' and posting the contact number for the new Department of Homeland Security 'E-Verify' data base – a data base designed eventually to hold the employment records of every worker in the USA.

Some people feel that it is important to 'send a message'. Other people feel, just as strongly, that this is the wrong message to send. Already the battle lines are drawn. One thing is sure – a bitter local battle will be fought and, in the end, no one will be any closer to creating the economic security we all need.

There are some good, practical reasons to oppose this ballot measure:

- Needed county law enforcement funds will be diverted from public safety to

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