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Northwest

Hispanics top target for measles vaccination

ATLANTA (AP) — Measles vaccination programs should target all eligible people, but especially Hispanics who recently immigrated to the United States, federal health officials said.

A report issued Thursday by the Centers for Disease Control noted that Washington state reported its largest number of measles cases in 11 years. The CDC also said that measles continues to be transmitted in medical settings, especially hospital emergency rooms, because cases often are not diagnosed and isolated promptly. Many medical workers also are not immune, the CDC said.

The CDC's weekly report, which highlighted information gathered by the Washington State Department of Health, said at least 28 percent of the measles cases recorded in that state this year were acquired in Mexico or were linked to cases acquired there.

Washington health officials reported 306 cases of measles during the first 26 weeks of 1990 — nearly five times the number of cases reported statewide during all of 1989 and the largest number in the state since 1978.

Detailed data available for 218 of the cases showed 77 cases, or 35 percent, occurred among Hispanics. Hispanic children showed the highest incidence rate, with 28 of 41 percent, under 5 years old. Of those, 32 were younger than 14 months old.

In response to the measles epidemic, the state Department of Health spent \$1.1 million for 70,000 doses of measles vaccine this spring, said Barbara Baker, Washington's immunization director. The vaccination clinics were publicized in Spanish and English on radio and television, in newspapers and by sound trucks driving through areas with a high number of Hispanic residents, she said.

First male director of aYWCA resigns

TACOMA (AP) — The only man to serve as executive director of aYWCA has resigned effective Aug. 1, citing stress after his highly publicized appointment.

Law suits and intense debate arose within the Young Women's Christian Association after Alan Tiger was named to run the local chapter in 1988.

"The job is just a draining job," Tiger said. "I'm just ready to be something besides the first male executive director of aYWCA."

He said he had yet to take another job but had some leads. The recent purchase of nine lots across from the Y in downtown Tacoma and the drafting of plans for capital expansion make it better for him to leave now, at the start of long-range planning, Tiger added.



SHADY COVE, Ore. (AP) — Line left behind by fishermen all too often becomes a death trap for wildlife along the Rogue River and elsewhere.

For example, a young osprey could be seen dangling from its nest early this week about a half-mile below Tallman Park along the river. It died in a vain effort to extricate itself from a mass of monofilament attached to its nest above a dead tree.

"Its wings were hanging on the side of the nest, about 6 to 8 inches below the rim," said Bob Neill, a Siuslaw Valley resident who spotted the bird while rafting the river late Sunday afternoon.

He started making telephone calls Monday night and Monday morning, but the bird died before a rescue effort could be mounted.

Although it would have been too dangerous for somebody to climb the 100-foot snag, a helicopter rescue might have been possible, Neill said.

Such incidents are becoming all too common in the summer months, said Dave Siddon, director of Wildlife Images animal rehabilitation center in Grants Pass.

Ospreys, also known as fish hawks, collect most from river banks to line their nests and keep their young cool. The tangled masses of monofilament apparently look like moss to them, Siddon said.

"Almost annually, we rescue baby ospreys tangled up in fishing line," he said. "This is absolutely deadly, deadly stuff. People when they get snared in their line should never throw it down on the ground. It is just deadly to wildlife."

Hooks and lines also wrap up other animals, such as eagles, great blue herons, mink, beavers, river otters and more, he said.

Just last week, an adult male osprey from a nest at the Slide Hole, upstream from Shady Cove, was found with four yards of line wrapped around its right wing, Siddon said.

"Luckily, it didn't cut into the flesh," he said. "We turned it over to the Department of Fish and Wildlife and they released it back near its nest."

Fishing line spells death for ospreys, other river animals

SHADY COVE, Ore. (AP) — Line left behind by fishermen all too often becomes a death trap for wildlife along the Rogue River and elsewhere. For example, a young osprey could be seen dangling from its nest early this week about a half-mile below Tallman Park along the river. It died in a vain effort to extricate itself from a mass of monofilament attached to its nest above a dead tree. Its wings were hanging on the side of the nest, about 6 to 8 inches below the rim, said Bob Neill, a Siuslaw Valley resident who spotted the bird while rafting the river late Sunday afternoon. He started making telephone calls Monday night and Monday morning, but the bird died before a rescue effort could be mounted. Although it would have been too dangerous for somebody to climb the 100-foot snag, a helicopter rescue might have been possible, Neill said. Such incidents are becoming all too common in the summer months, said Dave Siddon, director of Wildlife Images animal rehabilitation center in Grants Pass. Ospreys, also known as fish hawks, collect most from river banks to line their nests and keep their young cool. The tangled masses of monofilament apparently look like moss to them, Siddon said. Almost annually, we rescue baby ospreys tangled up in fishing line, he said. This is absolutely deadly, deadly stuff. People when they get snared in their line should never throw it down on the ground. It is just deadly to wildlife. Hooks and lines also wrap up other animals, such as eagles, great blue herons, mink, beavers, river otters and more, he said. Just last week, an adult male osprey from a nest at the Slide Hole, upstream from Shady Cove, was found with four yards of line wrapped around its right wing, Siddon said. Luckily, it didn't cut into the flesh, he said. We turned it over to the Department of Fish and Wildlife and they released it back near its nest.

Driver takes passengers on wild ride

CORVUS D'ALENE, Idaho — A bus driver jailed after passengers complained that he took them on a high speed ride around the Idaho Panhandle has been fined. Greyhound Line of British said.

Four passengers complained of injuries, including one who was hospitalized for treatment of a back injury after the wild ride on Interstate 90 on the Snake River. The driver, identified as Robert Mont, 26, of Spokane, was booked for investigation of reckless driving, the sheriff's department release said in a news release Thursday.

"We are sorry it happened. The driver did not act according to Greyhound policies, and therefore, has been terminated," Greyhound spokeswoman Lil' Duan said from the firm's headquarters in Dallas, Texas.

Greyhound driver Nick S. Nienbarth, 26, of Spokane, Wash., was booked for investigation of reckless driving, the sheriff's department release said.

A passenger who had been hit off the bus called Corvus d'Alene police about 1 a.m. Thursday to complain that the vehicle was being driven in a reckless manner by a driver who refused to let other passengers off, the release said.

Deputies spotted the bus on Interstate 90 west of Coeur d'Alene before the driver pulled over near Fort Pulliam. Passengers told deputies the driver operated the bus at a speed of 90 mph, sidestepping trucks and tailgating cars along the way, as passengers yelled to be let off, the release said.

DETRUIT, Ore. — Searchers have ended their efforts to find a 13-year-old Bannock Len Packer, who has been missing in Albany since July 12. Linn County Sheriff Art Marink said about 20 people finished an extensive 20-square-mile search south of Highway 20 Thursday evening.

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Cruelty to cats

Vancouver Humane Society manager Sheila Fiedler holds one of 36 cats found abandoned in a Vancouver house Wednesday. Vancouver resident Jane L. Adams was arrested and released after Clark County sheriff's deputies found 36 abandoned cats, 25 of them dead, in her house. Adams has been charged with 36 counts of animal cruelty. The surviving cats are in custody and under treatment.

Town's secret bat guano cache may yield more than extra cash

GOLD HILL, Ore. (AP) — Just as bat guano sales were starting to take off, the mayor of Gold Hill has stopped selling the natural fertilizer until he is sure it does not transmit disease.

Mayor Jay DeYoe declared a moratorium on guano sales this week after a woman telephoned from Delaware to warn the brown gritty substance could be spreading the disease histoplasmosis.

Sales had benefited the volunteer police force in this southern Oregon community. "I got to thinking that if there was any somebody, we ought to check it out," DeYoe said Thursday.

He has sent a sample from the city's secret guano cache to the Jackson County Health Department for analysis.

Gary Stevens, program manager of environmental health services, has told the Central Valley Times newspaper he would contact the national Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta for advice.

"Instead of a big scare, this is more of just a precaution," DeYoe said.

Jacqueline Burgess called City Hall from Margolis, Del., after reading a story about Gold Hill's bat guano business in her local newspaper. A picture of DeYoe with his nose in a bag of guano accompanied the article. "It really concerned me that he was doing this," she said in a telephone interview. "Tears down the line he could get it."

Burgess should know. Eight years ago she had laser surgery to repair a blood vessel in her eye damaged by histoplasmosis, the fungus she contracted the disease as a child when she lived near chicken houses in southern Delaware. "It's a fungal virus," she said. "It grows in bat manure, chicken manure, pigeons, and they are finding it now in seagulls. It can be inhaled into your system. It can affect your lungs, heart, liver, and cause calcified areas on the brain."

"With me, it affected my eyes," she said. "Now I'm partially blind because of it. Blood tests revealed the passage of the disease on to her children, though they have shown no symptoms," Burgess said.

A city employee discovered a number load of bat guano within the Gold Hill city limits recently. DeYoe came up with the idea of selling it to help support the police department.

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Tracy Lee Palmer, 28, appeared Thursday in Douglas County Circuit Court and was ordered to stand trial starting Jan. 8.

The woman is charged in the July 1 killing of Donald James Fish, a 34-year-old Vancouver man.

The other defendant, Tamara Rippe, 28, has not entered a plea. If convicted of aggravated murder, the woman could face the death penalty.

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