



City of Clark does what they can, so people don't get bit

In the winter city employees keep the snow off the streets. In the summer these same city employees control mosquito populations. Both tasks keep Roger Collins and crew up at night. The winter job starts around 4:00 a.m. The summer mosquito control starts at dusk or early evening sometimes and usually last about three hours.

"Each year we (the city) do our part to control mosquitoes within the city limits, but as everyone knows it's an unending job and people notice when they are biting and we are all in this together," said city employee Roger Collins who is in charge of the spraying of insecticides from a truck throughout the summer months.

People can help by 1) getting rid of stagnant water; 2) apply repellents with DEET and stay protected; 3) know that mosquitoes bite more at dusk/night and early in the morning; 4) wear clothing that covers arms, legs and feet; 5) know that mosquitoes are attracted to darker-colored material; 6) set out candles or lanterns with bug-detering luminaries.

"The biggest way to help us is



Clark street superintendent Roger Collins was working on the Clark (brand) mosquito machine last week. "We can only go about five mph because this 'smart flow' machine runs off a satellite. The speed is really important and the wind has to be under 10 mph," said Collins.

Spraying for mosquitoes will go throughout the summer. On various nights one will see either Collins, Tyler Silkman or Darin Altfillisch in the truck. The chemical used for mosquitoes is pre-mixed Evoluer 4-4 ULV.

to wear protection," said Collins and he said that mosquitoes will be showing up quite quickly, if one hasn't seen them already.

Today (Wednesday), Collins is attending a 'mosquito school' where he will learn the latest in mosquito news and he will be calibrating the mosquito machine.

"Each year the state, through the grant process, helps out individual cities, but that data has not been released yet," said city finance officer Jackie Luttrell.

"If anyone is concerned about the chemicals we use to spray, just go to city hall and look at the chemical date sheet," said Collins.

The mosquito control truck sprays very small amounts of insecticide into the air to kill mosquitoes. Spraying does not harm people, pets, animals or the environment, but Collins said it is a good idea to shut doors and windows when one knows the mosquito spraying machine is coming.

Of course, the early evening when the spraying for mosquitoes is being done, cannot be a windy evening.

Manning the sprayer and the truck will be city employees Col-

lins, Tyler Silkman and Darin Altfillisch. City parks, the golf course and city streets will all be done throughout the summer.

When asked about what he's doing now about mosquito control, Collins commented, "We are pre-treating some waterholes to get the mosquitoes in infancy. The mosquitoes are out right now. Don't be fooled just because it's April."

When one sees the yellow flashing lights, close the windows he stated and ended, "We are doing the best we can."

WEATHER

Ryan Eggleston - Official Weather Observer

| | HI | LO | PR |
|----------------------------|------|----|-----|
| April 18..... | 54 | 37 | 0 |
| April 19..... | 41 | 36 | .26 |
| April 20..... | 48 | 35 | .04 |
| April 21..... | 59 | 33 | 0 |
| April 22..... | 64 | 34 | 0 |
| April 23..... | 69 | 40 | 0 |
| April 24..... | 61 | 32 | 0 |
| 2017 precipitation to date | 2.37 | | |
| 2016 precipitation to date | 3.36 | | |

April 24-28 is Severe Weather Preparedness Week in SD

This week, April 24-28, is Severe Weather Preparedness Week in South Dakota and Clark County Emergency Management Director Michael Gravning asks one and all to take a minute to make sure one is prepared for a disaster.

Severe Weather Weeks are a time to refocus one's attention from the cold and snow of winter, to the heat and severe weather experienced during the spring and summer. Now is the time to review severe weather plans and see if any changes need to be made. For example, if your family gets separated during an emergency or disaster, has a "check in" point of contact been established, preferably out of state?

"We never want severe weather, but unfortunately it does happen," says Tina Titze, director of the South Dakota Office of Emergency Management. "Severe weather occurs in South Dakota and everybody needs to be ready just in case." State and local officials will spend the week encouraging people to start making preparations now. Several counties throughout the week are holding severe weather preparedness meetings for their weather spotters and the public.

"When severe weather hits, it is then too late to make preparations," says Titze. "Now is the time when individuals and families should discuss what to do in times of severe weather."

NOAA's National Weather Service, in partnership with state and local emergency management agencies, will hold drills during the awareness week. For South Dakota, the practice tornado watch will be issued at 10:00 a.m. CDT/9:00 a.m. MDT for all of South Dakota on Wednesday (today) April 26. The test tornado warning will be issued at 10:15 am CDT/9:15 am MDT with the warning canceled at 10:30 a.m. CDT/9:30 a.m. MDT. It is usually during these test warnings that some towns will test their tornado sirens with schools and businesses and practicing their tornado drill procedures.

In Clark, starting in May, the tornado siren will be tested every Tuesday evening at 6:00 p.m. This will be ongoing throughout the summer. If the weather is inclement on a respective Tuesday, the siren will not be test that day.

"This final week of April is a good week to emphasize just how import-

ant it is to get ready for weather emergencies and to realize that disasters can strike quickly and without warning," said Gravning.

You could be anywhere - at work, at school, or in a car. What would you do if basic services - water, gas, electricity or telephones were cut

Severe weather (continued on page 7)

A new kind of hero in a half shell made a stop at Clark Elementary School on Monday. Tommy the Turtle is the mascot for the South Dakota Department of Public Safety's Office of Emergency Management (OEM). Tommy helped educate the second grade students in Melissa Nesheim's class about Severe Weather Preparedness Week.

Autumn Stout, reading to the students and Brad Maskovich "Tommy the Turtle" from the SD Office of Emergency Management in Pierre are shown with some of the second grade students.

Clark County Emergency Management Director Michael Gravning distributed books about tornado preparedness to the second graders following the presentation.



Clark now has a tremendous track facility

This isn't your basic track picture. There aren't any locals in the photo. What makes this picture special is that it is the first picture taken at the new Clark High School track, during a track meet.

Seven schools participated in the Cyclone Invitational junior high track meet, held Monday, April 21, in Clark.

The junior high meet could be labeled as a 'tune-up' event, as in May, Clark will host two big varsity

track and field meets.

On Friday, May 12, the Northeast Conference meet will be held in Clark. On Thursday, May 18, the Region 2A meet will be held in Clark.

"The meet actually went quite well," said Clark activities director Jerry Hartley of the Monday meet. "We have a beautiful facility and all the coaches were quite complimentary. We are really looking forward to the two meets in May," Hartley said.

Stormo is first Bradley Christian School graduate

Tyler Stormo graduates this spring from the Bradley Christian School (BCS), in Bradley.

Stormo, the son of Kerri and Jeff Yexley has attended BCS all five years of the school's existence and is the first graduate.

When asked how he looks at his experience at the Bradley Christian School, compared to elsewhere. Stormo commented, "I don't think it feels much different than, say, a public school, but it is smaller, giving me one-on-one teacher/student experience that I really am thankful for."

Bobby Postal is the individual who provided that one-on-one teacher/student experience, as he, along with his wife Anna, are the Bradley Christian School instructors. Bobby takes the upper grades while Anna teaches the primary students.

Primary students are going to be on the increase for next year, said Postal, as he expects three pre-kindergarten, two kindergarten, three first grade, two third grade and one senior student for next year.

"We've been incredibly blessed," said Postal of the Bradley School existence and presence. "We really don't have a goal, or an agenda. We are blessed, numbers-wise."

Stormo (continued on page 7)



Bradley Christian School has been in existence for five years. Tyler Stormo has been a student there all five years and now he is graduating high school. Awarding his diploma is high school teacher Bobby Postal, right.