

# Sedgwick County has syphilis scare

By Paige Carswell  
Sports editor

Think it can't happen to you? Think again.

Health officials in Sedgwick County are warning the area of a syphilis outbreak. According to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, there were 24 reported cases of early syphilis in Sedgwick County in the 2008 calendar year, the second highest number in the state of Kansas (the first was Wyandotte with 29).

Statewide, there were 86 reported early syphilis cases, which was a 33 case increase from 2007.

A surprising 42 percent

of cases were in individuals over 35 years of age, while 21 percent were in both age groups 20-24 and 25-29.

There is good news. Even though Wichita is only 52 miles away, Marsha Donals, a nurse at the Cowley County Health Department, said there have been no cases in Cowley County, including Winfield.

Donals said that any male or female who comes into the health department to get tested for a sexually transmitted disease automatically gets tested for syphilis.

"I feel we're doing a really good job of testing," Donals said. "About a year ago in Oklahoma there was

a surge, so we alerted some of the doctors' offices around here, especially since we're a border state, and we haven't seen any cases at all."

Syphilis, although easy to test for and determine the symptoms of, is fairly uncommon since the discovery of penicillin.

Jane Kaufman, Osteopathic Clinic nurse practitioner, said, "The main screens nowadays are for Chlamydia and Gonorrhea, because syphilis is not very common, but we do still screen for it."

Syphilis usually starts out as a single painless sore called a chancre (there can be multiple sores) in the first stage, which appears at the

place syphilis entered the body. Kaufman said the sores may also be visible in the mouth. This sore will show up in 10 to 90 days, and will last three to six weeks before healing without treatment.

"If someone comes in and says that they have a sore, but that it isn't bothering them, then we usually first screen for syphilis," Kaufman said.

The secondary stage is typified by a skin rash that can appear as rough red or brown spots on the palms of the hands and the bottom of feet.

Other symptoms can include fever, sore throat, hair loss. If the syphilis remains untreated, the latent stage

will take place in which all symptoms disappear, but the syphilis still remains in the body.

"It's tricky. People may be living with syphilis and not even realize that they have it," Donals said.

In 15 percent of untreated cases, late stages can then begin 10 to 20 years after the disease was first acquired.

In the late stages, syphilis will attack internal organs, including the brain, nerves, blood vessels and joints. It can cause paralysis, dementia and even death.

While the late stages can cause extreme complications, syphilis is completely curable, and is easily thwart-

ed in the early stages by a simple shot of penicillin. It takes more than one shot for someone who has had syphilis for more than a year.

Donals said that the first thing someone should do if they suspect that they have an STD is to get tested.

"I think that's the most important thing that you can do," Donals said. "You need to use protection for one thing, but if you're sexually active and not using condoms, you need to be proactive about your health and go get tested."

Paige Carswell is a sophomore majoring in journalism. You may e-mail her at paige.carswell@sckans.edu.

# Tornado season blows in, college prepares

## • Awareness of storm shelters on campus becomes priority for residents

By Inger Marie Furcholt  
Features editor

Tornado season in Kansas begins next month. As the time gets closer, there might be some who are not familiar with tornados or what to do when a tornado comes.

In June of 2008 Winfield had a storm. Summer residents living on campus were waiting for a tornado warning.

Daniela Giugea, business administration sophomore, was one of them. "I lived in Warren Apartments this summer, and we were supposed to go to White P.E. by the pool in case of tornado warning. We never went though,"

said Giugea.

Travis Hamilton, wide receivers/tight ends coach, also stayed in Warren Apartments during the summer. "I stayed in Warren this summer and just stayed there and watched the storm from the front door. White P.E. was the place we would have had to go in case of a tornado warning," said Hamilton.

Many students do not know where to go in case of a tornado warning, but the college is trying to get the word out before tornado season starts so students can be prepared in case of a storm.

Sarah Hallinan, director of residence life, said, "Each building should have a tor-

nado safety room. In the next month we'll slip tornado safety flyers under each door to inform students about the tornado safety on campus."

Hallinan said that most of the buildings have interior bathrooms that can be used in case of a tornado warning or watch.

"Warren Apartments have a bathroom downstairs under the stairs," said Hallinan, "There are bathrooms in both Shriwise and Honors, and those would be the safest area in the apartments to hide.

"When the weather is bad, students should keep an eye on the news. It can't hurt to go over to your designated

building," said Hallinan.

In Broadhurst, students should move to the first floor in the west hallway, and keep the fire doors closed.

If you live in Reid, you're supposed to move to the lowest level floor, interior stairwell. If time allows those in Reid should proceed to White P.E. men's locker room.

Sutton residents should move down to the west first floor hallway and shut the fire doors.

Wallingford residents should do the same as Broadhurst and Sutton. Move to the first floor hallways.

For those living in either Honor or Shriwise Apartments. If time allows, pro-

ceed to Mossman. If not take shelter in the smallest room, which would be the bathroom or closet, so that you're near the middle of the apartment.

Kenard Calhoun, physical education senior, is a resident of Shriwise Apartments, and already knows where to go in case of a tornado warning. "I know I have to go to Mossman, but that is only because I have been here for five years now," said Calhoun.

If living in Warren Apartments and time allows, proceed to the White P.E. men's locker room. Take shelter in the smallest room, downstairs bathroom or closet near the middle of the apartment.

Cole Hall is the only dorm

with a basement.

Ariel Prevett, biology freshman, is a residence of Cole, and is not familiar with what to do if a tornado occurred. "If a tornado came I would not know what to do," said Prevett.

A tornado watch means there is a possibility of a tornado. A tornado warning means that there is actually going to be a tornado.

"In case of a tornado, stay away from windows, and stay near the interior and the first floor or basement," said Hallinan.

Inger Marie Furcholt is a sophomore majoring in journalism. You may e-mail her at inger.furcholt@sckans.edu.

—Lingo from page 5 eagle is negative three. But rather than argue the name of the score, I just try to dream that one day I might hit one.

It becomes a right of passage in sports to be able to talk to talk. One-up-manship is common at times. Stubborn fans might exert every play name they know to outwit another. A heated bleacher conversation might bring out names like the "give and go," "pick and roll," "up and under," "brick layer," "back door" and who can forget the "teardrop." Confusing? Maybe to some, but others will answer back with plays and terms of their own.

Now if you'll excuse me, I'm going to go work on my 360 degree behind the back tomahawk jam from the free throw line.

StuFu presents  
**JAZZ NIGHT**  
8 p.m. tonight  
in the cafeteria

Get there early so you can take  
swing dance lessons by  
Care To Dance out of Wichita  
from 8-9 pm.

The SC Regional Jazz band will be in full  
affect from 9-10:30pm

If you are up to the challenge, dress up to  
the theme of the night in 40s attire. The  
best-dressed couple and best dancers  
will receive special prizes.

9 LIVES  
IMPROV COMEDY

7:30 PM

Feb. 13

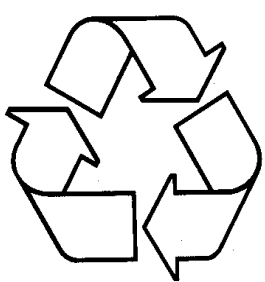
Expressing their love for you the only way  
they know how...

...by making you laugh until it hurts

Messenger Recital Hall  
Be there!!

Work Study Positions  
Available  
At The  
Winfield Area  
Chamber of  
Commerce  
Call financial aid office  
229-6262

It's Easy To



Recycle!

Make use of the recycling bins  
around campus!

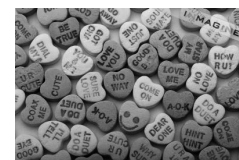
Phi Beta Lamda



Are you trying to find a cheap but personal gift for that  
someone special on Valentine's Day?

If your answer is YES, then we have the perfect gift for you!!!

For only \$2.00, you can buy a Candy-Gram. We do all  
the work - all you do is address the note, and on  
Valentine's Day your special gift will be put in your  
sweetheart's mailbox!



We will be in the Java Jinx at the following times:  
Wednesday: 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 5:30 - 7 p.m.  
Thursday: 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 5:30 - 7 p.m.  
Friday: 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

If you have any questions please email us at:  
amy.laible@sckans.edu  
or  
kristen.pettey@sckans.edu