

COLBY FREE PRESS

Community urged to take active part in Tuesday's drill

By PATTY DECKER
Free Press Editor

It won't be the real thing, but for people in the 13 northwest Kansas counties, Tuesday has been set aside as a full-fledged tornado drill in conjunction with the Kansas Severe Weather Awareness Week from Monday, March 11 through March 15.

The drill, which is part of a statewide effort, will be a comprehensive test of the emergency systems in place, said Lyle Barker, science and operations officer with the National Weather Service Office in Goodland.

Residents and businesses are also being encouraged to take part in Tuesday's drill that will begin at 10:30 a.m. (CST).

Mike Albers, the city's technology director and weather spotter, said that unlike in previous years, this test will be issued under the authentic tornado warning header, activating

broadcaster's emergency systems in order to provide a more complete test of the entire dissemination system.

"As part of the drill, the city will be practicing as if it were a real tornado," he said Friday.

"We will do a complete lock down and all employees will head to the city's storm shelter."

Barker said the National Weather Service Office in Goodland will issue the test tornado warning as an integral part of preparing for this year's severe weather events.

"We urge all residents and businesses to take advantage of next week's drill by practicing communication, safety and disaster response procedures," Barker said.

In the event of inclement weather, Barkersaid a backup drill date has been scheduled for Thursday with the same times of 10:30 a.m. (CST) or 9:30 a.m. (MST).

Hog group says rules devastating to industry

WICHITA (AP) — In a move closely watched across Kansas, Norton County implemented this month strict new rules on confined animal feeding operations that go far beyond environmental protections in existing state and federal regulations.

At stake, supporters contend, is the safety and quantity of groundwater as mega hog farms proliferate. Residents are concerned about high nitrate levels in their water and odor from the swine operations.

But opponents say the new rules are so far-reaching that it will not only drive out of business the county's hog producers, but would devastate the Kansas livestock feeding industry if other counties follow Norton County's lead.

The northwest Kansas county has long been a battleground on the issue. Norton County has two cattle feedlots, but most of the public outcry has been

over the expansion of swine operations.

The issue was so volatile in the November 2000 local elections, write-in candidate Leroy Lang beat out both the Republican and Democratic candidates for the county commission after mounting a six-day campaign over the hog farming issue.

The county contends the state's one-size-fits-all regulations are not adequate, and state regulators don't have the staff needed to monitor the farms, said Commissioner John Miller.

"We feel it is a public health issue," Miller said.

After watching moratoriums against mega hog farms fail in Wallace County, Norton officials hired their own legal and scientific experts to draft proposed regulation they expect to survive legal challenges. The work took two years and will cost more than \$35,000 when completed.

Speaker covers many topics at ag law symposium in Colby

By MAXINE NELSON
Colby Free Press

Good fences make good neighbors, said Roger A. McEowen, who spoke to a group of about 60 people at the KSU/ Southern Plains Agricultural Law Symposium earlier this week in Colby.

McEowen is an associate professor of agricultural economics and extension specialist at Kansas State University.

"McEowen was very informative. He is almost like a walk-in ag law encyclopedia," said Dennis Chandler, Thomas County Extension agent.

He said one issue McEowen talked a lot about was fencing law. "His bottom line was that Kansas has a law that livestock have to be fenced, but he said it would be in both the farmers' interest and the livestock producers' inter-

est to be sure the fence is good," he said.

McEowen said the law says that fencing is a share thing. "They have what is called the right hand rule — if you have half a mile fence someone would take one-fourth mile, and the other person the next quarter mile. As long as that is even country, that works out all right. If there are a lot of hills and creek beds, one person's cost might be double that of the other person. Basically they need to share the cost," he said.

McEowen also talked about leasing, mainly oil. He said the best advice he could give is to put it in writing. And the same thing applies with fencing and a fencing agreement. "Get it in writing, because there was an actual case in Kansas in which there was a mile long fence, and the agreement wasn't in



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Sheri Printz as Goldilocks and Brent Hockersmith as the Big Bad Wolf, will be among the cast at the Saturday performance of "How Things Happen In Threes. The play will begin at 11 a.m., in Frahm Theatre at

the Northwest Kansas Cultural Arts Center on the Colby Community College campus. Admission is free and the play is designed to introduce young children to an appreciation of the arts.

Special treat planned for kids Saturday

By PATTY DECKER
Free Press Editor

Colby Community College is extending a special invitation to everyone, young and old, to attend a children's production entitled, "How Things Happen In Threes," at 11 a.m., Saturday, at Frahm Theatre in the Northwest Kansas Cultural Arts Center.

"The production is free and designed to introduce elementary school children to theatre," said Walter Yuhre, coordinator of the event.

The performance will be based on four popular fairy tales to include The Three Pigs, The Three Wishes, The Three Bears and Three Billy Goats Gruff, he said. On Tuesday, cast members visited Oakley Grade School and today

were in Quinter. Next week, the tour will continue at Sacred Heart School and Atwood Grade School.

The event and tours to various schools was made possible by Service-Learning Minigrants sponsored by Community Service Program at Kansas State University in conjunction with Colby College, Yuhre said.

The cast includes Colby Community College students, John Baker, Uriah Williams, Brent Hockersmith, Keri Waterman, Sarah Rabas, Sheri Printz, Sharon Miller, Aaron Thompson, Joe Kreutzer, and Martina Matchett.

Yuhre said he hopes to see lots of people on Saturday to enjoy this production, suitable for children between the ages of kindergarten through fourth grade.

Briefly

Weather: Improving

Cloudy, cool and windy is the Colby area forecast for today, followed tonight by a 20 percent chance for light snow, clearing skies, winds up to 25-30, diminishing by morning and low temperatures in the lower teens. Saturday, all sun, high in the middle to upper 40s and west winds up to 10 mph. Saturday night, partly cloudy with the lows in the upper teens. Sunday, partly sunny, highs in the lower 60s and Monday, partly cloudy, lows in the 30s and highs in the 50s. Colby's high Thursday was 52 and the overnight low this morning was 22. The soil temperature at the 4-inch depth is averaging 33 degrees. No additional precipitation to report. The records for March 8: 82 in 1899 and -4 in 1967. (The daily temperatures, precipitation and records are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.)

Commissioners to meet Monday

The Thomas County Commissioners will meet at 9 a.m. Monday in the commissioners room of the courthouse. Thomas County Health Nurse Kathy Ryan will bring applications for grants at 9 a.m. Road supervisor Chris Bieker

will bring a lease to sign with Dave Tole on a sand pit at 9:30 a.m. Landfill supervisor Larry Jumper will bring February's totals at 10 a.m.

Storm spotter class slated

The National Weather Service in Goodland and the Thomas County Emergency Management will present a storm spotter and safety class in Colby on March 26. The training will begin at 7 p.m. in the Student Union of Colby Community College. It is free of charge and is intended for all age groups. The program is conducted once every year by National Weather Service meteorologists. For information contact John Lygeros Jr. or the Goodland Weather Service at 785-899-7119.

Aviation safety program Saturday

The annual Aviation Safety-Education Seminar at the Colby Municipal Airport will be held on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., in the terminal building. The program will include presentations by managers with the Wichita Flight Standards Office, Wichita Air Traffic Control Tower Sabris

Corporation and others. Various topics include ways to save the life of a fellow pilot in the event of an emergency, accidents and incidents when there are mechanical failures and how to remedy those situations, along with safety suggestions. The event is open to area pilots or those interested in the event. Lunch will be provided at no cost. For questions, call Mark Ostmeier, Colby Municipal Airport manager, 462-4438.


Flea market set for April

The Thomas County Alcohol Drug Abuse Council is seeking donations for its flea market scheduled for Saturday, April 13, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. All donations to the council are tax-deductible and for those needing to make arrangements to have items picked up, call 462-6111.

Sorority plans youth tournament

A 3-on-3 youth basketball tournament, sponsored by Kappa Upsilon, will be held on Saturday, April 13 in the Colby Elementary and Colby Middle School gymnasiums. The grade divisions for boys and girls are 3rd-4th; 5th-6th; 7th-8th, and 9th-10th with entry fee at \$24 per team. The

deadline for entry forms is Tuesday, April 9. Registration will be at 8:15 a.m. the morning of the tournament with play beginning at 9 a.m. For questions, call Pam Augustine, 462-2924, or Bonnie Dinkel, 462-7247, co-coordinators.



Thumbs Up!

- ✓Mike Albers — quite an achievement.
- ✓Steve Lampe — good recap of the college's wrestling program.
- ✓Stuart Aiken — Spelling Bee's best.
- ✓Marvin Cloe — on your retirement after a 36-year military career.
- ✓Mitch Beims — "Coach of the Year!"
- ✓Kathy Diederich — on your certification.
- ✓Heartland Christian School — on your very successful fund-raiser.
- ✓Dixie Green, Kris Haines, Carol Wilson, Rob Beckman — enjoy the Free Press.

(Call TD at 462-3963 to submit names for consideration in this weekly salute.)

