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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 header, activating (MST). warning

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, Barker said a backup drill date has been scheduled for Thursday with the same times of 10:30 a.m. (CST) or 9:30 a.m.

Sheri Printz as Goldilocks and Brent Hockersmith as the Big Bad Wolf, the Northwest Kansas Cultural Arts Center on the Colby Community

PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

will be among the cast at the Saturday performance of "How Things College campus. Admission is free and the play is designed to intro-Happen In Threes. The play will begin at 11 a.m., in Frahm Theatre at duce young children to an appreciation of the arts.

Hog group says rules devastating to industry

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 megahog 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

WICHITA (AP) — In a move 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 onesize-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 megahog farms fail in Wallace County,

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.

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

other counties follow Norton County's lead.

but most of the public outcry has been completed.

Norton officials hired their own legal and scientific experts to draft proposed The northwest Kansas county has regulation they expect to survive legal

long been a battleground on the issue. challenges. The work took two years Norton County has two cattle feedlots, and will cost more than \$35,000 when

"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, tion, suitable for children between the ages of kindergarten through fourth he said. On Tuesday, cast members visited Oakley Grade School and today grade.

Williams, Brent Hockersmith, Keri Waterman, Sarah Rabas, Sheri Printz, Shalon Miller, Aaron Thompson, Joe Kreutzer, and Martina Matchett.

Yuhre said he hopes to see lots of people on Saturday to enjoy this produc-

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 Univer-

"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-

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, could give is to put it in writing. And the same thing applies with fencing and and resold them. Pioneer sued for a fencing agreement. "Get it in writing. patent infringement and J.E.M. counbecause there was an actual case in Kansas in which there was a mile long Supreme Court affirmed that plant patfence, and the agreement wasn't in ents are valid. This opinion is expected

est to be sure the fence is good," he said. writing. When all was said and done, to impact farmers who keep part of McEowen said the law says that the one producer paid for 7/8th of the fencing is a share thing. "They have total fence because nothing was in writing," he said.

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From there he talked about the top 10 agricultural law developments of 2001.

One was a decision of the United States Supreme Court, he said, which eliminated any doubt that plants are patentable under the laws of the United States. "Pioneer held 17 patents and sold protected seeds for production of grain and/or forage, but not for the use mainly oil. He said the best advice he of the seed for propagation," he said. "J.E.M. Ag Supply bought the seeds tered that plants are not patentable. The

their crop as seed for the coming year."

McEowen also talked also about chemical trespassing. He said that is probably going to be one of the major court issues in the next little while. He cited a case of pollen drift in Canada, in which a person planted Roundup Ready Canola. "The neighbor didn't, but when testing, the neighbor found that some of his plants were Roundup Ready. That went into a Canadian court," MeEowen said.

He said producers have to be extremely careful about chemical drift, especially when next to farmers who are organic farmers. He said farmers need to check on their liability, because they can be sued for contaminating organic fields.

McEowen talked about the packer/

tified a nationwide class action against court will consider each check-off on IBP which claims that IBP's privately held store of livestock allows IBP to set their own prices and not rely on auction price purchases in the open market for their supply. This case is in the court. Irregardless of actions by Congress, if this case goes forward it will take precedence.'

McEowen talked briefly about the mushroom check-off. Some handlers said advertising was generic and was not promoting the high quality of mushrooms that growers were raising. "The court said it is a violation of First Amendment free-speech to charge a mandatory check-off for mushrooms. This will have rippling effect on the Inn in Garden City. He may be reached pork check-off, beef check-off, other check-offs, which may be challenged 532-1519.

stockyard act, saying, "The court cer- in court, although it is expected the its own merits. This is a kind of a wait and see thing," he said.

> McEowen talked some about estate planning and said it depended on when you started farming. If the family started farming back in the '60s or early '70s time frame, generally if the husband dies first, the price base of the land raises to the present value of the land. He said if the lady dies first, it's only her level that can be raised, and not both of them. He recommended checking with your personal lawyer on estate planning.

> McEowen will be speaking at an ag law symposium May 10 at the Plaza at rmceowen@agecon.ksu.edu or 785-

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 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

will bring a lease to sign with Dave Tole on a sand pit at 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 Ostmeyer, 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! 싥
\sqrt{M} Mike Albers — quite an achievement.
$\sqrt{\text{Steve Lampe} - \text{good recap of the college's wres-}}$
tling program.
$\sqrt{\text{Stuart Aiken} - \text{Spelling Bee's best.}}$
$\sqrt{Marvin Cloe}$ — on your retirement after a 36-year
military career.
$\sqrt{Mitch Beims}$ — "Coach of the Year!"
\sqrt{K} Kathy Diederich — on your certification.
$\sqrt{\text{Heartland Christian School}}$ — on your very suc-
cessful fund-raiser.
√Dixie Green, Kris Haines, Carol Wilson, Rob
Beckman — enjoy the Free Press.
(Call TD at 462-3963 to submit names for consid-
eration in this weekly salute.)

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