



Opinion

Why not test sirens every month of the year?

The February tornado outbreak points up a flaw in emergency planning for many Kansas counties: no one pays any attention to the sirens and other parts of the emergency warning system from November through February.

Most cities and counties wait until "tornado season" approaches in March before they test the sirens and put the system through its paces. That works fine. Most years.

And while it's true that the tiny Kansas town of Harveyville got no warning before it was hit because the tornado there literally dropped out of the sky, it requires a bunch of what-ifs to say that we don't need to worry about tornadoes in winter.

Nature, it seems, does not know about the "season" dates for her little productions. She sends out tornadoes when she darn well feels like it.

A huge tornado came over Colorado's Wolf Creek Pass a few years ago, laying waste to timber for miles and scaring the bejebbers out of some Texas elk hunters, who knew a twister when they saw one.

"Everyone" knew that none of that could hap-

pen: no tornadoes on the Continental Divide, no tornadoes in late October, no tornadoes in the Colorado high country. If it weren't for all those broken trees, people might have thought those hunters were imagining things.

Then a few years ago, a tornado west of Hays damaged houses in November, barely a week before Thanksgiving.

It's common to have tornadoes in the South in winter months. Storms that bring blizzards to the plains and ski weather to the mountains generate thunderstorms in warmer states.

But in Kansas?

So here's the deal. Why not just test the tornado warning system the first Monday of every month?

The first test of March, just before Severe Weather Week, usually turns up a few sirens that stopped working over the winter. Why wait? Tornadoes don't know about Severe Weather Week.

There's no harm in cranking up the publicity in March, but weird as our weather can be, why take chances with the sirens? Why not be ready?

- Steve Haynes



Woman commends other's work

Letter to the Editor:

I was very happy to see that we were granted the money to help restore the band shell. The people who did the paper work and attended the meeting are to be commended. Especially Greg Kite who didn't give up even after the first refusal. Mr. and Mrs. Scott Schultz, Helen Dobbs and Ward

Letter to the Editor

Cassidy did a good job representing our town.

We are fortunate to have people go to bat for our community. Most of us think something is a good idea but do nothing about it. We appreciate your help Greg

Kite and to all others who helped. Thanks to you, our band shell will be restored to its original beauty and the town will have a place of history and beauty to enjoy.

Marie Holzwarth, St. Francis

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



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I don't care who you are or where your family came from, there should be some pride in your heritage. If for nothing else, your fore bearers survived long enough to put you on this good, green earth.

My clan has always embraced our humble Scot-Irish roots. The first McCormick headed to the New World as a stow-away on a sailing ship in the late 1700s. He wasn't discovered until it was too late to turn back to his County Antrim in Northern Ireland.

Rather than throw him overboard he worked the passage and then was sold as an indentured servant in the Carolinas. After a few years of slavery he ran away to Kentucky where my father's folks lived for several generations.

So I enjoy St. Patrick's Day both to honor Ireland's patron saint and its culture. In that vein, I'd like to share a few Irish-Americans you might be surprised to know of.

Buffalo Bill Cody, Davey Crockett and Andrew Jackson had Irish roots. Jackson, the seventh president, beat out Kennedy by a few years. In fact, there are 22 presidents with links to the Emerald Isle.

A couple of names from different industries: William Randolph Hearst and Henry Ford. Before his son did so much to build the automobile with mass production, Ford's father was evicted from the family home in Cork in 1847.

From the world of entertainment there is Gregory Peck, Buster Keaton and Marjorie Morrison. The last was better known as John Wayne. Maybe that Celtic blood explains the fine job he

did in "The Quiet Man."

I would be negligent if the ladies of the group were not represented.

Actresses Grace Kelly and Helen Hayes, the first woman on the Supreme Court, Sandra Day O'Connor, and artist Georgia O'Keefe have ties, too.

In closing, how about a couple of "Mollys?" Molly Pitcher of the American Revolution as well as Titanic survivor Molly Brown are also members of the club.

So on Saturday, whether you're one of us or not, take a moment to celebrate those who brought you into the great melting pot. And be proud of where you came from.

on a road so narrow.

Bonny gave all of us something. For people like my mother who was in the 1935 flood, it gave security. When it was being built it gave the city of St. Francis a boost as it built housing for the workers. It was called Bonnevillie and it was built where the Good Samaritan now sits.

It gave us safety, it gave us recreation and I am sure each of us have some kind of memory from it. It makes me wonder why it has been given up for a reason that I classify as greed.

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The Gardener

By Kay Melia



I have in my possession, roughly 250 old gardening magazines of varying ages that I enjoy referring to occasionally. There are Flower and Garden editions, Organic Gardening, Horticulture magazine, and Gardens For All publications standing by, ready for immediate use at the proper time. I'm not sure when that will be, but there they are, whenever I might need them.

Several months ago, I opened the pages of a 1984 Organic Gardening magazine and there was a tomato with a smiling face holding hands with an equally happy head of cabbage. An onion was dancing with a carrot, and a cucumber was having an obviously interesting conversation with a head of broccoli. I ask myself "What goes on here?"

The title of the accompanying article by one Elliott Tozer was "The Truth About Companion Planting," and the reader was invited to learn why some garden plantings make better neighbors than others.

But does planting one specie of plant beside another actually enhance the growth and production of each other, or is the whole idea just wishful thinking? It all started about 2,000 years ago when Pliny the Elder wrote that "rice seems to be very friendly with figs" and ever since, gardeners everywhere have been swapping countless ideas and suggestions

about various garden pairings.

Actually, there seems to have been very few controlled experiments on the subject, and therefore there is very little conclusive evidence that specific companion plantings really work. And in the research that has been conducted, the results are often not clear cut. When plant growth or yield is improved by a companion it is likely due to subtle, biological factors that seem to vary from garden to garden. In some successful plant partnerships for instance, one plant will act to decoy harmful insects, luring them away from the target crop. In other instances, a companion may have a positive influence on the soil, or simply provide needed shade. The truth is, a companion planting does not help a fellow plant directly. Instead, it might play a small role in a complicated series of events that may seem to enhance the other plant's growth or health.

But, for wherever it's worth, here are a few match-ups that the author, Mr Tozer says may have the support of at least one scientific study. To benefit cabbage, plant tomatoes nearby. To aid your carrot crop, plant onions. Sweet corn seems to appreciate a row of beans nearby. To keep broccoli happy, plant a hill or two of cucumbers in the vicinity. Collards seem to

enjoy a tomato plant as a close neighbor, and bell peppers seem to welcome a few ragweeds or pig weeds nearby because the weeds attract leaf miners that peppers can't appreciate. And finally, an idea that seems to be a bit bazaar. Plant a few dandelions close to your tomato patch. The roots of dandelions seem to protect against fusarium wilt, one of the real killers of tomatoes. Somehow, it's tough to visualize a gardener purposely planting weeds anywhere, but then.....

Spring arrives next week! Is your hoe sharp?

Honor Roll

New and renewed Herald subscriptions: Aimee Northrup, St. Francis; George Baxter, Wheat Ridge, Colo.; Rojean Landwehr Claremore, Okla.; Bob Elliott, St. Francis; Thelma Schauf, Colorado Springs, Colo.; Walter Forsythe, St. Francis; Rodney Ritchey, St. Francis; Darrel Ritchey, Wray, Colo.; Rodney Myers, St. Francis; Darla Raile, Salina; Veronica Boyles, Burlington, Colo.; Jerry Meyer, Bethune, Colo.; Majorie Mann, Overland Park; Ron Popp, Albany, Ore.

Hangin' With Marge

By Margaret Bucholtz



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Last week Kurt and I drove over to Bonny Dam to see what was being done. It was sad seeing the water almost all gone and knowing that Bonny Dam will no longer be as we remember it.



On the trip over I remembered riding the same road with the excitement of seeing this dam being built. Then came the time when the water was there with people fishing and water skiing. That was the lake I learned how to water ski on.

Always there were families having picnics and friends getting together for a fun weekend. Those times are gone now and why?

As we drove across the dam I thought of the jet airplane that had made an emergency landing years ago. That pilot had to be an excellent pilot to be able to land

on a road so narrow. Bonny gave all of us something. For people like my mother who was in the 1935 flood, it gave security. When it was being built it gave the city of St. Francis a boost as it built housing for the workers. It was called Bonnevillie and it was built where the Good Samaritan now sits.

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Corrections

The Saint Francis Herald will correct or clarify any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story. Please call our office at 332-3162 to report errors. We believe that news stories should be fair and factual, and appreciate your calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard.

GOD SAYS
The poor is hated even of his own neighbour: but the rich hath many friends. He that despiseth his neighbour sinneth: but he that hath mercy on the poor, happy is he.
Proverbs 14:20, 21

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