



COLBY FREE PRESS

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Storm damages counties

By Tisha Cox
Colby Free Press

Storms Friday from Sherman County east to Sheridan County resulted in damage from downed power poles to cattle running over fence at a feedyard.

A tornado was reported at 5:18 p.m. near Angelus in southwest Sheridan County said Christine Krause, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Goodland.

The storm also produced winds up to 80 mph and hail.

At Hoxie Feedyard, Inc., manager Scott Foote said about 2,000 cattle got out of pens, but were contained in the feedyard itself.

The feedyard is eight miles west of Hoxie.

"There's a fence that goes around the property," he said.

"The cattle got out by pushing on the gates until they opened. None of the pens were busted down.

"It actually wasn't too bad," he said.

Hoxie Feedyard employees spent Friday night and Saturday morning getting cattle sorted and back into the pens.

Foote said the worst thing about the storm was the hail and the damage it did to area crops.

Downed power poles were also a problem, and not only in Hoxie, said Bob Helm, Midwest Energy public information officer in Hays.

At least 20 poles near Brewster were brought down by straight line winds.

"We've got some fellows out there doing some work," he said.

Poles were also knocked down from Great Bend to Jetmore, about a 70-mile stretch.

Helm said there were few reports of places without power.



JAN KATZ ACKERMAN/Colby Free Press

Above: Tree limbs buried Karla Olson's car in Friday in Hoxie after a storm with strong winds passed through. According to the National Weather Service in Goodland, a tornado had been spotted near Angelus, southwest of Hoxie. At about 5:15 p.m., tornado sirens alerted Hoxie residents of the approaching storm. A tornado was spotted later about eight miles northeast of Hoxie. Below: An irrigation system owned by Edith Wasserman about six miles north of Hoxie was one of many toppled Friday.

The length of time to replace polls and restore power depends on if county roads are muddy, and when crews can get to those locations.

"Storms can't be planned for," he said, "and replacing poles in the summer because of bad weather is a regular occurrence."

Midwest Energy did not yet have a damage estimate as of this morning.

Cost to replace poles depends on the size and poll's purpose. Just a regular pole by itself is \$300, and larger poles can be \$500-700. Repairing the power line increases the cost and labor.

There were also reports of damaged irrigation sprinklers but Sherman County Sheriff Jim Johnson was not available at press time.

No major damage from Friday's storm was reported in Thomas County.



Council to review airport upgrades

By Patty Decker
Free Press Editor

The Colby City Council will review bids for its municipal airport improvement project 7 p.m., Tuesday, in council chambers, 585 N. Franklin.



City Manager Carolyn Armstrong said the council will also consider approving the master plan update for the airport's zoning ordinance and insurance requirements for Mark Ostmeyer, airport manager.

Another agenda item includes bids for a new park mower, which were opened Friday.

The council is expected to approve one of those bids to purchase the mower.

In addition, the council could approve plans, specifications and authorization to advertise for bids on its wastewater treatment facility, Armstrong said.

The proposed schedule for the wastewater treatment facility, she said, is to open bids in early August, then forward them to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment for their review, award the contract to a firm in mid-September and set the completion date for April 2008.

The council will also hear an update from Council member Bev Eicher regarding regional recycling.

Eicher serves as a board member for that group. Lynette Koon, also with the organization, will provide the council with a brief report on last year's recycling efforts.

A Colby resident wants to discuss the possibility of curbside recycling and the council could consider an airport tank monitoring system replacement.

S&T Telecommunications is requesting the council consider a three-year extension on the city's telephone and television franchise agreement.

Armstrong said the initial term of the franchise was five years and the document would provide for five subsequent terms of three years each upon request from the company and approval by the city. The council will need to decide whether or not to approve the agreement.

Council members will discuss a street repair project and consider having an engineer develop and review specifications for the project. The council could also approve a resolution executing a contract with Thomas County for communications service.

Other discussion items include replacing Mitch Beims, council member, who is planning to move to Holton.

Another issue, she said, is the advertisement for a public works/utilities director position, currently being advertised in the *Colby Free Press*.

Armstrong said the planning commission is working on parking regulations, licensing for professionals and bonds for firms doing business in the city. The first budget work session for the city is scheduled for Tuesday, July 11, in council chambers.

The council will also need to decide on a special meeting date for council since the first meeting in July will fall on the Fourth.

A home occupation permit will be reviewed and could be approved for Yates Day Care, 170 W. Seventh St., along with a cereal malt beverage license for the Prairie Museum of Art and History's fall festival planned, Saturday, Sept. 9.

For questions or an agenda, call 460-4410.

Hoxie Commission revises law banning pit bulls

By Jan Katz Ackerman
Colby Free Press

Hoxie's city commission has put some teeth into a law banning pit bulls from town.

Hoxie City Clerk Kelly Smith on Tuesday said city commissioners and city attorney have revised a law dating back to 1988 which outlaws pit bull dogs.

"They did this because somebody had dogs in his yard that looked like pit bulls," Smith said.

"When the police officer went and talked to the owner (the owner

said they weren't pit bulls."

Mayor Lori Horesky and Commissioners Jim Erwin and Troy Dewey asked City Attorney Ken Eland to clarify the wording on an ordinance passed Oct. 24, 1988.

The city established a procedure to determine whether a breed of dog believed to be a pit bull is one or not.

Any dog suspected of being a pit bull, by request of Eland will have a search warrant from the municipal court to have the dog evaluated by the local veterinarian.

Smith said Dr. Mark Poell has agreed to examine any dog suspected of having a pit bull blood line and determine its breed for a fee of \$15.

If the dog's owner is found guilty of owning a pit bull dog in Hoxie the owner will be required to pay the \$15 back to the city in the form of restitution, and pay fines and court costs associated with violating the ordinance.

According to the current law, anyone violating the ordinance can be charged a fine not less than \$200 and not more than \$1,000 for

each day of violation.

In addition, the violator can be sentenced to time in the county jail for a period not to exceed 30 days.

Should the owner refuse to remove the dog from the city, the municipal court judge will find the owner in contempt of court and order the immediate confiscation of the animal.

For each day of violation of the ordinance, the dog's owner will be charged for the animal's shelter, food, handling, veterinary care and testimony necessitated by the enforcement of the ordinance.

Smith said in the 18 years since the ordinance was adopted it's been seldom used.

"It's almost 20 years old and it hasn't been a problem, but for people moving in (to town) they needed to know they can't have pit bull dogs," Smith said.

She said an incident which prompted the change in the law took place in April; however, since the commission meets once a month it took until June for the change to be implemented.

"Surprisingly these two dogs have left the city," she said.

Babysitting clinic offers training for young providers

By Tisha Cox
Colby Free Press

Need a responsible baby sitter or do you want to learn how to be one? Children will learn what it takes to be a dependable sitter during a clinic Wednesday, June 28 and Thursday, June 29 at the Colby Community Building.

Connie Walden, a nurse with the Thomas County Health Department, said the clinic is for children 11 years old and up.

"We want children of the community to be ready for all aspects of baby-sitting and we want parents to



Walden



Gerstner

have a competent sitter," Walden said. Participants will learn basic childcare during the two-day course including nutrition, child development, safety and CPR. Walden said children from three day cares will

be present so participants can observe and help with snack and play time.

A former clinic student, who is now a baby sitter, will talk about how the class helped them.

Another activity will include making family profiles. Family profiles are information on the children they are watching from favorite foods to activities and more.

"We go over everything," Walden said.

Children completing the two-day course will receive a card. With parental permission, the health department and extension will keep a list

of the children, so parents can call to find a sitter.

"Many of the children who take the class just need a place to start, or someone to baby-sit for," Walden said. "Many of them already have experience—watching younger siblings or cousins, but the class provides an overview on how to take on baby-sitting for real."

The event costs \$25. Children need to bring their own lunch and either a doll or teddy bear to learn how to diaper.

Registration is limited to 30, and the deadline is June 23. Participants will also receive an American Red

Cross baby-sitting guide.

The course is sponsored by the health department, Thomas County Extension Office, Farm Bureau, Colby Police and Fire Departments and the American Red Cross.

"This is the first year we've worked with extension," Walden said. Diann Gerstner, family and consumer science agent for extension, said family safety and childcare are part of extension's interests. Working with the health department on the clinic helps fulfill that mission.

For information, call 460-4596 or 460-4582.

Riverton officials didn't think students were serious

RIVERTON (AP) — Riverton High School officials who initially questioned some students later accused in a shooting plot found nothing to indicate the teenagers planned anything serious, the principal said during a court hearing

earlier this month.

Principal Todd Berry said school officials interviewed four of the five students days before their arrest on April 20. Berry's comments were made during a June 6 bond hearing in Parsons for James Tillman, 16.

The Joplin, Mo., Globe obtained a transcript and published a story Sunday.

Tillman is charged in juvenile court with one count of incitement to riot, one count of making a criminal threat and one count of sollicita-

tion to commit first-degree murder. At the June 6 hearing, Labette County District Judge Robert Fleming ordered Tillman to be held without bond until a July 10 hearing to determine if he will be prosecuted as an adult.

Andrew Jaeger, 15; Robby Hunt, 17; Caleb Byrd, 16; and Charles "Coy" New, 18, are charged with incitement to riot and making a criminal threat. A preliminary hearing for New, who is charged as an adult, is scheduled for Aug. 9.