

Republican River flood to be commemorated

May 31 marks the 75th anniversary of the Great Flood on the Republican River, which killed 113 and causes millions of dollars in losses.

On that day in 1935, National Weather Service records show, as much as 24 inches of rain fell over some parts of eastern Colorado, western Kansas and southern Nebraska. Few events have shaped the land and the history of our area as the flood of 1935.

The country was in the throes of the Great Depression when the year began.

Dust storms raged through the plains, adding to the problems of those already doing without as they attempted to survive along the river. However, in late May, the rains returned.

On the night of May 30, 1935, one storm system was over Nebraska while another was over southern Colorado. The systems merged over northeast Colorado, between where the Republican and Arikaree rivers meet, and just before the Republican crosses the state line into Kansas.

The storm positioned itself an area al-

ready saturated from previous rains, causing the worst flood in the area's recorded history. Then the heavy rain moved east overnight, following the Republican River drainage. The storm persisted until June 2, dropping an additional 2 to 7 inches of rain over the basin. This additional rainfall meant the flood crest traveling down the river encountered high waters from tributaries in southwestern Nebraska and northwestern Kansas.

Witnesses reported a wall of water surging east out of Colorado. The force

lifted homes and barns from their foundations and twisted railroad tracks as if they were toys. All down the Republican valley, residents recorded tragic stories.

There were remarkable similarities in the way lives were lost, and in the heroic efforts friends and neighbors made to save others. Although warnings had gotten to some of the area, many residents would not leave their homes, believing that after living in the valley for 50 years, the flood would never reach them.

To commemorate this event, the Na-

tional Weather Service in Goodland has created a webpage that features stories and pictures about the flood. The office is also giving a series of programs about the flood along the Republican River Valley. The website is www.crh.noaa.gov/gld/?n=1935flood.

Programs are scheduled for several cities along the Republican in the next few weeks. If you are interested in scheduling a program in your area, please contact Joy Hayden at the National Weather Service office at (785) 899-7119.

On the Beat

COLBY POLICE Friday

1:36 a.m. – Walk-through at Walmart.
7:19 a.m. – Assistant manager at Walmart reported theft of mulch.
8:57 a.m. – Window shattered by beer bottle at 1125 Flint.
10:54 a.m. – Dead opossum in roadway in the 400 block of W. Seventh disposed of.
11:16 a.m. – Accident at Eighth and Martin.
11:54 a.m. – Subject came to station reporting someone tried to open her apartment door on Cherokee Drive. Provided information.
2:09 p.m. – Vehicle driving erratically eastbound on Willow from Range not found.

2:52 p.m. – Clerk at Pioneer Memorial Library reported bicycle left outside front door for more than a week. Owner located.
7:17 p.m. – Civil matter; requested officer at 340 S. School. All OK.
9:42 p.m. – Motorist assist at Cleveland and Webster.
10:08 p.m. – Fireworks at 1150 S. Franklin. Not found.
11:54 p.m. – Vehicle parking in spot at South Park G4. Unable to make contact with owner.

Saturday

2:22 a.m. – Walk-through at Twisters.
5:53 a.m. – Motorist assist at Oasis.
9:11 a.m. – Manager at Meadow Lake reported damage to carts and

course.
11:07 a.m. – Accident in parking lot at McDonald's.
11:07 a.m. – Pickup and trailer parked for more than 48 hours in the 1100 block of W. Fifth. Tow-away notice posted, subject spoken to.
2:02 p.m. – All OK on transient checked at westbound off ramp of I-70 at K-25.
6:04 p.m. – Protective custody: 911 call advised of suicidal thoughts. Report filed.
9:42 p.m. – Accident at 265 W. Fourth St.

Sunday

1:38 a.m. – Security check at the B-Hive.
1:57 a.m. – Suspicious vehicle parked by the storage bins at 2075

Sewell. Subjects were advised to leave.
2:06 a.m. – Report of boyfriend harassing with text messages and threatening.
4:53 a.m. – Secured door on building "H" at Meadow Lakes.
10:57 a.m. – Hit and run of motorcycle parked at Motel 6 reported by clerk.
11:53 a.m. – Accident at Range and Fourth.
11:59 a.m. – Suspicious person: request to speak to officer at 275 E. Pine.

THOMAS COUNTY SHERIFF Friday

8:04 a.m. – Assisted police on theft call at 1537 County Rd. W.

4:08 p.m. – Took inmate to Citizens Medical Center and back.
6:36 p.m. – Oakley police advised of possible drunk driver north of Oakley on U.S. 83. All units advised; not found.
10:15 p.m. – Possible stranded motorist at mile 62 eastbound I-70 not found.
Saturday
12:50 a.m. – Driving while suspended report on traffic stop at County Rd. 21 and Veterans Memorial Dr.
2 p.m. – Vehicle near grain bins on property near County Rds. 16 and AA not found.
9:03 p.m. – Took prisoner to Larned State Hospital.
10:04 p.m. – 911 call about subject at County Rds. 8 and B.

In Rawlins County; information forwarded.
11:46 p.m. – Rawlins County Sheriff requested a message be delivered to family about a death.

Sunday

1:38 a.m. – Assisted Kersensbrook Funeral Home at 8049 County Rd. B.
12:55 p.m. – Possession report on traffic stop at U.S. 24 and County Rd. 32
7:01 p.m. – Took prisoner to Larned State Hospital.
7:28 p.m. – Accident at K-25 and County Rd. D. No damage.
11:09 p.m. – Vehicle was in yard at 2258 County Rd. C. Unable to locate.

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