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Missouri/Kansas see increase in drowning deaths

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Drowning deaths have increased slightly in both Missouri and Kansas this year. Safety officials say that before that weekend, 24 drownings had been reported that year in Missouri, four more than all of last year. And in Kansas, 12 drownings had been reported before the weekend, double the average for an entire year.

The Kansas City Star reports officials in both states say the increase comes as the number of pools has declined in the recession, with more people swimming out in the open waterways.

Most of the drownings have occurred in lakes and man-made ponds, not swimming pools.

Police patrol officials warn people to always wear life jackets when boating. Officials also remind others how many drownings that weekend could have been prevented if more people had worn life jackets.

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Coffee Klein coming to Liberal

Former K-State quarterback and third in the 2012 Heisman race Collin Klein is preserving for football Camp Tuesday in Liberal. Registration is the day of the camp. It is an offensive skills camp but all positions are welcome. Klein will be leading the camp.

The camp will be held at the high school and is 9th grade players in 8 to 9 a.m. with camp from 9 a.m. to noon.

Registration for high schoolers is there noon to 1 p.m. with camp set for 1 to 4 p.m.

TUESDAY

Seward County 4-H Benefit Trap Shoot set for Sunday

The Seward County Dairy Shooters trap team is hosting a Seward County Fire ever 4-H Benefit Trap on Sunday at the Liberal Gun Club which is on Lee Road to raise funds to buy equipment for the 4-H Shooting Sports Club.

Entry fee is a $30 donation per person and will consist of 100 targets. Categories will be youth and male and female with a total of 75 targets - 15 trap at 14 yards, 25 skeet and 25 trap at 27 yards.

There will be cash prizes for adults and plaques for youth, as well as other prizes of shot shells. Food and drinks will be available for purchase at the shoot, and everyone should bring a lawn chair.

Registration begins at 9 a.m. with practice available for $5 per 25-target round. The competition will start at 10:30. Shooters may bring their own shells (no steel) larger than #8 or 3/4 -inch 12-gauge shells will be available for purchase.

SUNDAY

Early Risers Kiwanis Club to sale Georgia peaches Fri., Sat.

The Liberal Early Riser Kiwanis will be conducting their annual peach sale Friday and Saturday at Pangle Pass across from Adventure Bay Water Park. The sale will feature fresh peaches from Fort Valley, Georgia and will continue at 7:30 a.m. Saturday until all peaches are sold.

The local non-profit organization will be selling the peaches at $30 per box. Proceeds are used for local community projects, including Coats for Kids, the Washington Elementary BiGa (Bringing up Grades) program, college scholarships for local students, and donations and support of other community projects and organizations. The group is also active in the community providing American flag displays for national holidays, volunteers for Pancake Day in town and other activities in the community as needs arise. Pre-ordering is available, but is not required. To order peaches - or for more information about becoming a member of the Early Riser Kiwanis - contact Kelly Kirk at 624-0368, Robert Hutson at 624-2994 or Ed Pinkey at 483-2401.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

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Two excavators push large mounds of burning hay down Saturday at the Heller Seanna facility 4 miles east of Liberal as firefighters douse the blaze. The fire started Friday afternoon and burned more than 1,000 bales of hay before it was extinguished, according to authorities. The fire started Friday and engulfed 5,200 bales of cattle feed and 20 truck loads of straw and could have been far worse. Photo courtesy Southwest Kansas Incident Management Team

Firefighters douse hay bale fire after battling blaze for more than 48 hours

By GARY PHILLIPS
Leader & Times

Once the weekend firefighters were finally able to douse the hay bale fire that burned for more than 48 hours near the Southwest Kansas Incident Management Team Public Information Officer Jeff Sawyer said Monday that the fire extinction last focus used to assist fighting the fire.

Liberal Fire Marshal Jeff Gilliland was on scene along with two ecosystem, which included pushing the large mounds of hay down to allow troops to get to the middle. Gilliland noted Saturday afternoon that the fire was still burning and spreads the fire out to allow easier to cool.

Gilliland noted Saturday that firefighters were working in shifts and reported that Greg Stanford, incident commander for the fire, said Monday that they would be in and out by Tuesday.

Stanford confirmed earlier today if firefighters were not early Sunday afternoon.

Approximately 5,200 bales of cattle feed and 20 truck loads of straw were lost in Kansas Facility located at 14820 Road 4 Liberal, Gilliland noted.

Gilliland reported Friday that Heller Seanna Director of Feeds Allison Hill Hepler estimated 75,100 bales of corn stalks and wheat hay on site to cover the backlash of trees were lost. Fortunately Heller Seanna has enough corn stalks and wheat hay on site to cover them in the short term and they have plans in place to move the hay to a more central southern where have assured them they can supply enough to cover the loss.

The exact cause of the blaze has been determined by authorities, according to Gilliland.

"We could have been miscellaneous combustion, or it could have been someone throwing a cigarette out the window, too," Stanford said. "I don't know if we'll ever know exactly now."

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Opening night proves successful for Rainbow Players

By VICTORIA CALDERON
Leader & Times

Dolphin lights, swinging cast stools, and cramping criminal attack. The Rainbow Players organization brought the Chicago musical to the stage with an exceptionally talented cast and a hard-working behind-the-scenes crew on Friday night at 7:30.

The musical is centered around two women who commit murder in 1920s Chicago. Roxie Hart (played by Kelsey Kim) was played by Alexis Chambers and Janice Hix, respectively. Both women were put in jail for their murder charges and made with famous lawyer Billy Flynn (played by Michael Ash) to be found "not guilty" by a jury.

"Chicago is different than most other shows. Actor Dylan Hall described it as a "very female-oriented" show. The musical was originally a vaudeville style 10 being performed in comparison to Stage Bill. "Last May or June, Chicago: The Musical was the movie version," Chambers said. "I don't know if we'll ever know exactly now."

Cast members of "Chicago" perform opening night in the musical that was well received by theater fans.The show was performed by the Rainbow Players, which is made up of individuals from the Southwest Kansas and Oklahoma Panhandle area. (AP photo/Tom Gromatzky)

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