



By Jan Schultz

The Imperial Republican

A poster created by Annie Polly placed third in a statewide contest preceding the upcoming severe weather season.

Open to fourth graders across the state, the announcement of winners was scheduled a few weeks ahead of Nebraska's Severe Weather Awareness Week, April 6-10.

Young Polly was among three other statewide winners and their families who traveled to Lincoln last week, where they were recognized by Nebraska Gov. Dave Heineman at a proclamation signing for Severe Weather Awareness Week.

Polly, a fourth grader at Chase County Schools, received a \$100 savings bond for her third place finish. Her poster includes a number of tornado safety tips.

She is the daughter of Kip and Kay Polly of Wauneta.

Winning the contest with a "Never out run a tornado!" poster was Shelby's Blake Grossnicklaus.

Placing second was Tressa Reiner of Burwell, while Tyler Sheldon of North Loup Scotia School placed fourth.

Also attending the ceremony was State Sen. Mark Christensen of Imperial; Paul Kunnemann, Chase County's Emergency Manager, and his wife, Lorna; and Annie's sister, Abby.

It's the second year in a row a Chase County student has been honored for their poster in the state contest. Last year, Makenna Wallin earned an honorable mention.

Kunnemann said two other fourth grade posters from Chase County Schools were sent in to this year's state contest. The others were created by Jadin Bussell and Bridgette Owens. All three local winners will receive movie passes, Kunnemann said.

The contest is sponsored each year by the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, the National Weather Service and the Nebraska Association of Emergency Management.

Severe Weather Awareness Week encourages Nebraskans to be prepared for severe weather by making a safety plan to help protect them during storms.