



THE TRAILER HOUSE belonging to Joice Pedersen is gone with only the steps still intact. No one was in the home at the time of the storm on Thursday night.

Microburst in McDonald

The McDonald area received damage Thursday evening as a microburst occurred about 7:30 p.m.

The National Weather Service in Goodland reported a cold front moving across the tri-state region helped trigger scattered strong to severe thunderstorms across portions of northwest Kansas.

Wind-driven hail shredded trees, gardens and crops in the vicinity.

Thunderstorm outflow winds estimated at close to 90 miles per hour resulted in damage to grain bins, a trailer home and a large storage building located in the southwest part of town.

Four power poles were snapped on U.S. 36 just west of town, resulting in a power outage lasting several hours in McDonald and Bird City. Tree and shrub damage was not totally confined to southwest McDonald, but damage intensity diminished considerably just a block to the east. No injuries or fatalities were reported.

The trailer house, belonged to Joice Pedersen. She was staying there, fixing it up. However, she was not in the house at the time of the storm. Bins belonging to the McDonald Equity were damaged

and at least one had wheat in it.

A building belonging to Duane Wilkens was flattened. A shop belong to George Louderbaugh was damaged.

The Weather Service said strong concentrated downdrafts associated with thunderstorms are often called downbursts, and when these downbursts occur on a scale of about 2 miles or less, they are termed microbursts.

Microburst winds can produce damage comparable to a tornado. However they are not rated on the EF-scale. Microbursts are thunderstorm outflow winds on a local scale, often resulting from the sudden collapse of a large core of rain and hail within the storm. When this core of rain and hail reaches the surface, winds accelerate outward from the storm, sometimes producing a swath of damage.

One way in which meteorologists distinguish between damage associated with a tornado and that associated with a microburst is the pattern of debris. Microbursts typically display a damage pattern where debris is blown radially outward from the storm. Thunderstorm outflows such as these are also called straight-line winds.



ONE OF the grain bins at McDonald Equity was damage by the Microburst that went through.

Times photos by Melinda Basnett

Board of education receives favorable overall audit report

Members of the Cheylin Board of Education heard from a representative of Adams, Brown, Beren and Ball on Monday evening who gave an audit report for the 2006-2007 school year. The overall report was favorable.

First and second grade teacher, Kathy Weber, spoke of her concerns regarding the size of the two classes and if the children were being shorted on her time in key areas such as reading and math. As of the meeting, she has 11 first grade students and five second grade students in the same room.

With the assistance of a para for five periods a day, and a teacher assistant from the high school for one period, she feels things will iron out and run smoothly. However, she wanted the board to develop some ideas on a class size cutoff point where they would divide the classes once more.

Mrs. Weber also has a student teacher working in her classroom this semester. Leading the student teacher in classroom teaching, has also added some confusion. Board members asked questions about scheduling, and what would help. Mrs. Weber suggested that another school was using a Title I teacher for reading classes and she felt that would help a great deal. Superintendent Dave Zumbahlen said he would check into how this could be done.

In other business

In other business:
• A contract with Leah Rambat as kitchen aide was approved.
• The training rules for junior high volleyball were approved.
• Parent-Teacher Conference schedules for the month of September and October were rescheduled and notes will go home at a later date.

• Board member Rod Young reported on what he had discussed with the HolyFish web design and what they could do for Cheylin. There was a lot of discussion on technology and pros and cons of a new web site. More information will be sought from teachers and staff.

• The board voted to purchase a used Dodge Dakota pickup from MotorTown for \$7,395 plus a trade-in.

• A new dumpster will be purchased that can be hooked onto by the trash truck and dumped mechanically.

• Music teacher Rose Hengen has reported to Mr. Zumbahlen that she is in need of more horns. She is currently using eight of her own for the music department. Any useable horns that community members would like to donate would be welcomed and purchasing reasonable horns from e-

Red Cross to be in St. Francis at the grade school Sept. 27

By Karen Krien

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The American Red Cross personnel will be in St. Francis from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 27, at the grade school, 307 E. Webster, to collect blood.

The organization reports that the oppressive summer heat across the area has kept blood donors away from their scheduled donations and the impact on the blood supply could lead to shortages.

The summer months are traditionally a challenging time for blood collection. During the school year, donations from high school and college students account for approximately 15 percent of the Red Cross blood collections.

In the summer, these donors be-

come much more difficult to reach, with schools not in session and many families on vacation.

Pam Head, chief executive officer for the Red Cross Central Plains Region, said that help is needed to increase the community blood supply so that the organization can continue to provide hospitals with the lifesaving blood people need every day.

"The need for blood is ongoing — every two seconds, someone in America needs a blood transfusion," she said.

"Emergencies and other health issues don't go away when the weather gets hot, and we encourage our donors to keep up their lifesaving efforts at all times of the year."

To be eligible to donate blood, the individual must be at least 17-years-old (16 in Kansas with completed



parental consent form which is available at www.bloodgiveslife.org), weigh 110 pounds and be in generally good health.

To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-448-3543. Walk-ins are also welcome but they may have to wait.

"Giving blood is a safe and easy process," Ms. Head said. "Please consider donating blood soon."