

Storms hit area hard with wind and hail

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Last week, farmers and gardeners were rejoicing over the much needed moisture received on Monday. Reports were from two to two and half inches of rain, accompanied with lower temperatures that helped the corn, but was too late to do much for the wheat. Then, on Saturday, things changed for the worst. Strong winds were in progress all day, which developed into a brief but fierce hailstorm. Reports from McDonald were that winds were produced at nearly 100 miles per hour. These winds snapped REA poles in-two, and left one pole leaning on Road 35 L-M. On Monday, workers were working on the south side of Highway 36 Road II replacing several snapped or weak poles and wiring. A large number of power lines were down between Oberlin and Atwood.

From Atwood to Great Bend, Bird City and St Francis, the winds were strong enough to put residents and businesses out of electricity for periods of time. St. Francis was out of electricity and phone service from around nine p.m. Saturday until two a.m. on Sunday. Bird City and Atwood's electricity went out at nine p.m., and was restored twenty four hours later on Sunday evening.

McDonald and Atwood reportedly received the largest amount of damage, and would take longer to restore power, according to reports from residents and Manny Tavaréz with Sunflower Electric Power Corporation in Garden City. He said he received a call around 5:00 a.m., and by two p.m., nine electrical trucks with two more trucks were on the way from Great Bend, Garden City and Colby. They were working on Road 25 R, restoring their fifth Transmission line. These lines were to St. Francis, Bird City and Atwood. Two lines that were down in McDonald were cleared from the roads, but repairs were held up due to needing more poles and other equipment for restoration, as they found many more poles down than were reported.

On Sunday, a crew was working on the south side of Highway 36, clearing six Corer Operative Distribution lines from the roads. They were unable to restore the lines until Monday, when they acquired enough distribution line and poles. Five poles were completely snapped in half between road I and K on Road 28, and one between Road J and K. Workers moved the lines away from the roads, laying them back and on the ground to clear them for passing vehicles.

Other residents in the area of Atwood, McDonald, Bird City and St. Francis reported several broken limbs from trees. Many were busy sweeping up the leaves and clearing the debris left in their yards and sidewalks. Golfers looking forward to a good day of golf in both St. Francis and Atwood on



GLASCO'S sprinkler well was twisted and on the ground from the high winds that ripped through the area on Saturday evening. Reports of several center pivot systems being overturned have come in.

Times staff photo by Norma Martinez

Fathers Day were unable to play because of the large tree limbs left scattered on the golf courses.

In Atwood, along the road towards the entrance going to the golf course, a very large tree was entirely uprooted. On Monday, workers were cutting up and removing a thirty-foot tall tree that was uprooted and had fallen, resting on the resident's house on seventh and Blaine St.

Off of Road 34 K in Bird City, three large pieces of metal were blown about 150-200 feet across the road and into a field, after hitting a tank and removing it from the top of a trailer, leaving other debris in the path. Rob Jensen had five towers of his seven tower sprinkler destroyed by the high winds, the Glasco's entire pivot was mangled, and on Road 33 K, Gary Brubaker's seven tower sprinkler had two towers mangled.

From the drive by appearances, the hail did minimal damage to the corn and wheat, but it did break a few windows. The wheat is starting to ripen in areas. If the winds will settle down and temperatures will stay seasonal, farmers might end up with a good crop of corn to help make up for the poorer wheat crop, damaged due to the dry spring and high 90 degree temperatures in May.



SUNFLOWER ELECTRIC POWER SERVICE crews were working to repair the transmission line that was knocked down in the strong wind storm.

Times staff photo by Norma Martinez

Cheyenne County July 4th Celebration Schedule

Time	Event (Location)
9:30- 11	Firetruck Rides - all ages (BC Fire Dept) Wagon rides - all ages (BC Library)
10	Horseshoe Tournament (Van Doren Park)
11 - 5	Concessions (Bird City Swimming Pool)
11:30	Red, White & Blue Kids Parade (Walking Path, Van Doren Park)
11:30-1	All-American Hot Dog Meal \$6 (Van Doren Park)
12 noon	Hot Dog Eating Contest - Youth & Adult Divisions (Van Doren Park)
1 - 5	Free on the 4th Swimming (Bird City Swimming Pool)
1:30-2:30	Patriotic Sing-A-Long (Bird City American Legion)
2:30-3:30	Cake and Ice Cream Social (Bird City American Legion)
3:30- 7	Free Time to Gather with Family and Friends
7:30-9:30	Evening Celebration (Thresher Grounds) Free tours of Old Sod House, Country Church & Country School DJ Music with Open Microphone Boy Scouts & Girl Scouts Finger Light sales Concessions Free rides for kids
9:45	Announcements & Our National Anthem (Thresher Grounds)
9:50-10:30	Spectacular Fireworks display set to patriotic music (Thresher Grounds)

Agencies warn customers of scammers

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There have been reports of phone scams targeting residents of Cheyenne County. Callers claim to represent legitimate government services, such as the Internal Revenue Service or Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency, and tell the recipient of the call that he or she owes money.

The caller will ask for personal information, such as bank account or credit card numbers. Never give out any personal banking information over the phone; most agencies will not ask for this information. The Internal Revenue Service said on their website that they never ask for credit card, debit card or prepaid card information over the telephone.

The Federal Trade Commission warns consumers to be cautious when giving out any personal information over the telephone. There are many scams that are out there, and consumers have to be protective of their private information. They also said not to ever "confirm" any account or social

security numbers over the phone if you feel the call is suspicious. It could be a trick. If the call is suspicious, use caution. Most agencies will send written notification of any problems or changes occurring.

The United States Department of Agriculture and Internal Revenue Service have both issued warnings regarding the phone call scams that are targeting people right now.

Phone Scam targets farm service agency

The Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency was recently alerted that a phone scam is being perpetrated on its customers.

A caller, who identified themselves as a Farm Loan Services representative out of Washington, D.C., states that the agency "owes" you disaster assistance funds and proceeds to request your checking account information or requests a credit card number alleging that funds will be credited to these accounts.

Should anyone receive a call

similar to this, do not, under any circumstances, provide personal or financial information to the caller.

Service warns of pervasive telephone scam

The Internal Revenue Service has issued a strong warning for consumers to guard against sophisticated and aggressive phone scams targeting taxpayers, including recent immigrants, as reported incidents of this crime continue to rise nationwide.

The Internal Revenue Service will always send taxpayers a written notification of any tax due via the mail. The service never asks for credit card, debit card or prepaid card information over the telephone.

People have reported a particularly aggressive phone scam in the last several months. Potential victims are threatened with deportation, arrest, having their utilities shut off, or having their driver's licenses revoked. Callers are frequently insulting or hostile - apparently to scare their potential victims.

Pam Bolin, St. Francis, received one of these calls last week. The caller, she said, was very adamant that she pay a certain amount immediately or Jim (her husband) would be thrown in jail.

Mrs. Bolin said she knew they didn't owe taxes and that the call was a scam. However, she did some follow-up investigation just to make sure.

The caller, she said, was very convincing and she could see how it could scare someone into sending the money without ever checking.

The scammers do their homework. Sometimes they can recite the last four digits of the victim's Social Security number. They can also make it appear that the Internal Revenue Service is calling on the victim's phone caller identification.

People are urged to share this information with family, friends and neighbors. If you think you have been a victim of a phone scam, notify the sheriff's department at 785-332-8880.