

weather report

66°

noon Monday



Today

• Sunset, 7:12 p.m.

Wednesday

• Sunrise, 6:27 a.m.

• Sunset, 7:13 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 53 degrees
- Humidity 39 percent
- Sky Mostly sunny
- Winds calm
- Barometer 29.77 inches and steady
- Record High today 86° (1943)
- Record Low today 15° (1936)

Last 24 Hours*

High Sunday	71°
Low Monday	35°
Precipitation	—
This month	—
Year to date	3.21inches
Above normal	1.1 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Partly cloudy, high near 56, low around 29. Breezy with a north wind between 5 and 20 mph.

Extended Forecast

Wednesday: Partly cloudy, high near 50, low around 31. A 20 percent chance of rain or snow showers. Thursday: Cloudy, high near 48, low around 28. A 20 percent chance of rain or snow showers. Friday: Partly cloudy, high near 54, low around 32. Saturday: Mostly sunny, high near 63, low around 32. (National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz. * Readings taken at 7 a.m.

Twister destroys rural homes

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News

A quarter-mile-wide tornado that formed near the border between Sherman and Cheyenne counties tore through the homes of three rural Bird City families Wednesday evening, skirting the east edge of town and clobbering houses along a 10-mile stretch northeast of town.

The storm scattered toys, clothes, furniture and pieces of the walls and roofs about the area, and a mattress landed in a tree. Farm implements were toppled, some even dumped on top of buildings; grain bins were smashed and thrown about; and garages ripped to pieces.

Ed Carson's garage and barn were damaged, and the storm ripped shingles and siding from his home on the east edge of town, while the twister destroyed the homes of Nick Ketzner and Lynn and Candy Glasco and a house owned by Ed Dorsch.

The tornado tore the roof off of John and Marie Kamla's home and shoved a 2-by-4 through the back of their car and into their windshield. Bud Mears returned from Denver over the weekend to find his home partly destroyed.

The Ketzner, Glasco and Kamla families were home and made it to shelter, while the Dorsch house was vacant.

Peoples State Bank of Colby collected boxes for the victims to store items in, and people in the area came to help gather up the families' belongings and find places to store them.

Pictures of the town were on state and national television news programs, and Big Ed's Steakhouse was the place to be Thursday night.

The first tornado hit about 8 p.m. (Mountain Time), and about as soon as it dissipated, a second, smaller tornado formed three miles north-east of Bird City and moved into



A woman helping with cleanup checked out the damage at Nick Ketzner's farm northeast of Bird City on Thursday. Ketzner, his wife

Heidi and sons Dylan, 3, and Brady, 1, made it into their storm shelter and were not injured. Photo by Casey McCormick/The Bird City Times

southern Dundy County, Neb.

Both were part of the storm that swept between Goodland and Edson, said Sarah Johnson, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service in Goodland. The first one trav-

eled through most of Cheyenne County, she said, and several homes were hit, along with significant tree damage.

It was a destructive storm, she said, and not just the tornadoes

caused damage.

The tornadoes were measured on the relatively new "Enhanced Fujita Scale," Johnson said, with the larger storm rated as EF2 and the smaller one EF1. The scale isn't a lot differ-

ent than the old, familiar Fujita scale, she said. There are differences in the wind speeds, Johnson said, but the main difference is the enhanced

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College instructor surprised by tornado

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

A technical college instructor was spending spring break working in his body shop on Main Street in Holly, Colo., on Wednesday when a howling wind blew the front door open.

"I had been on the phone talking to Sandy," said Larry McLemore, a body shop teacher at Northwest Kansas Technical College. "She was at home alone and was worried about the weather.

"I had not hung up from talking to her more than a minute or two when the wind began to really howl and blew open the shop's front door. It took me a few seconds to realize it was a tornado, and suddenly it was gone and the door blew shut.

"I got in my pickup and drove over to Joyce Barth's house, where Dillon, 12, was staying with his grandmother. I tried to drive west, but U.S. 50 was blocked with trees and I drove through the park.

"When I got to her house, Dillon was standing at the door shouting about a tornado. I told him I knew and he pointed toward the north. I looked and through the lightning flashes could see the outline of the tornado as it headed northeast over the hill."

McLemore said he usually spends the weekends at the shop in Holly, and this was spring break so the fam-



Larry McLemore, auto body instructor at the Northwest Kansas Technical College, washed mud off of a tornado-damaged pickup on Saturday in his body shop on Main Street in Holly, Colo. McLemore and his family were spending spring break in Holly when the tornado hit. He said he expects to go back down on the weekend to start fixing windows in vehicles the adjusters think are repairable. Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

ily was spending some time in Holly.

"I did not realize how bad the trees were damaged until the next morn-

ing," he said. "I had a flat tire, and wondered how I ever got through the park that night with all the trees

down."

He said he started helping pull people out that night, and said he

was really surprised that more had not been killed.

Saturday morning, he was spraying mud off a pickup that had all the windows blown out. He said he was cleaning it up so an insurance man could take a look and decide if it was worth fixing.

As the mud washed away, McLemore reached out and ran his hand across the door.

"There are lots of little things imbedded all over this," he said. "There is not a section that doesn't have dents from the tornado. I think they will probably total this one. The front windshield was blown out from the inside."

McLemore said he planned to return to teaching at the college on Monday, and would take more glass down with him next weekend to fix vehicles.

The body shop, about half a block south of U.S. 50 on the east side of Main, was Nick's IGA years ago.

McLemore said his home was not damaged. His wife is a Holly native, and her family's home was not damaged.

The tornado that hit the town was one of 65 reported on Wednesday, killing three from Holly and Elmwood, Okla. The storms marched north along a line from Texas through Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska and the Dakotas.

local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$4.10 bushel
- Posted county price — \$4.18
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Corn — \$3.57 bushel
- Posted county price — \$3.38
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Milo — \$3.32 bushel
- Soybeans — \$6.65 bushel
- Posted county price — \$6.72
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Millet — \$7 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- NuSun crop — \$16.25
- Pinto beans — \$25 (new crop)
- (Markets by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

inside today

More local news and views from your Goodland Star-News



Cowgirls win opener

Cowgirl senior Nicole David pitched against the Garden City Lady Buffs on Friday at Centennial Field. The Cowgirls won both games, 4-3 and 10-3. See story, photos on Page 9.

More photos on Page 12

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Driving into Holly Friday afternoon from the east, you couldn't see any damage until you crossed Main Street; then a block and a half west, you could see homes without roofs, and tree limbs piled everywhere.

Holly had been home to me, my wife and daughters in the mid '70s, but it had been more than 30 years since we had moved to Lamar.

Parking at the Anna Bryce School, where the Red Cross headquartered, we asked about

some of the people we knew.

A couple talking to a Red Cross disaster team member looked up and said hello. They had recognized me, and we talked for a few minutes about what happened to them.

That was the first of many such conversations that afternoon with people I had known three decades before.

A 600-foot wide tornado spawned by a series of fierce thunderstorms that stretched from Texas to Nebraska hit Holly Wednes-

day evening killing one woman injuring 11 others and damaging or destroying more than 160 houses in the town of about 1,000.

The tornado was one of 65 reported that night by the National Weather Service, and a man was killed in Texas and a couple killed in Elmwood, Okla. Tornadoes caused extensive damage to Holly, and another one destroyed homes on the edge and near Bird City.

Abi Weaver, Red Cross public affairs spokesman with the disaster team in Holly, said they had been surprised by the way the towns people were taking care of each other.

She said the Red Cross had come prepared to set up a shelter for people who's homes had been destroyed, but no one had come.

"In this town, the people have family or friends who they can stay with," she said.

She said the Red Cross major effort had been to provide food and water to those who lost their homes, and to help feed the citizens and the volunteer workers who were there to help with the cleanup.

Saturday, a semitrailer truck loaded with

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