



Large hail pounds St. Francis area

By Tim Burr

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Friday around 7 p.m., seemingly coming out of nowhere, a tremendous hail storm hit St. Francis and a long strip of Cheyenne County. What had been a hot and hazy day, with low predictions for thunderstorm activity, quickly turned into an unexpected, destructive evening.

Richard Grace said that he had watched the storm quickly develop, and it seemed to be circling around to the north and east of St. Francis, and sliding east.

"I was in the yard, putting up a few things, and then, bang, the first stone hit," Rich said. "Then they started coming down so fast, I just stayed in the garage and rode it out."

"I was in the house, and I thought someone had slammed the back door," said Carol Ross. "It was the first stone, I guess. Then, all hail broke loose."

The storm gave little warning. Almost immediately after the first stones fell, it was in full force.

"The stones were huge," Grace said. "The first one I saw was at least the size of a golf ball, and then they got bigger, and lots and lots of them."

After the storm subsided, many were out assessing the damage.

Don Krien, Roger Orth and John Keller reported hail north of St. Francis. There was hail east of St. Francis to the edge of Wheeler. The strip then appeared to run mostly north and south, down through town, through the Lawn Ridge area, and on into Sherman County. There were reports of hail as far south as I-70, west of Goodland. It appeared the strip was four to five miles wide, with its eastern edge being around Highway 27.

Friday, during the storm,



GOLF-BALL SIZE HAIL STONES and larger were reported Friday night. The hail came with wind and did considerable damage.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Riverside golf club, just west of St. Francis, received only a light sprinkle. The northwest part of Cheyenne County received no rain, and only a light rain was reported in the Bird City area.

The hail stones themselves were reported to be quite large, many saying golf ball to larger. Substantial damage was done

in St. Francis to roofs, siding, windows, fences, gardens, and trees and shrubs. Cars that were uncovered also took a beating. Even some covers on the city street lights were broken.

Around town, on Monday, numerous houses displayed plywood covering over broken windows on their east-facing

fronts. Many cars displayed windows and windshields that were shattered, and some completely broken out. Any vehicle that was hit by the stones displayed a number of large dimples.

"Looks like you took a hammer to the side and top of these cars," said Kary Meyer, who

was at Troy's Transformations helping write insurance estimates on Monday morning. "We've probably looked at 40 to 50 vehicles since Saturday morning. I don't know how many to expect, but I know there are a lot more with glass damage. We'll even have to do our own, since we had big damage to all of our vehicles,

and big damage to the siding on our house, too."

Lezlie McCormick, at Farm Bureau, was fielding calls, and getting policy holders information on Monday afternoon.

"We'll get their info, and pass it on to the adjusters so that we can get the claims settled quickly,

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FIELDS OF CORN were cut down almost to the ground by the hail on Friday night.

Herald staff photo by Tim Burr



ROADS WERE IMPASSABLE in the Lawn Ridge area south of St. Francis.

Herald staff photo by Tim Burr

61st Annual Antique Engine & Thresher Show



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Primary election coming Aug. 5

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Early voting for the primary election has begun, and voters can cast their ballots until noon on Aug. 4. The Cheyenne County primary will be held Aug. 5.

The Primary will be held at the Peace Lutheran Church in St. Francis for all townships except Bird City. The Peace Lutheran Church is located at 202 N College St. Bird City township will vote at the Immanuel United Methodist Church located at 116 Bressler St. in Bird City. Election time is from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Remember, said Deb Lindsten, county election officer, to bring some form of identification when coming to vote.

School board member district change
In the coming weeks, St. Francis school district members will vote on a resolution that will allow them to choose school board members that are general representatives,

rather than district-specific.

Currently, the board of education members are elected using "Voting Plan B," which states, "All electors, who are otherwise qualified according to law, and who reside in the member district may vote in the primary election for the member positions of such member districts and for the at-large member position. All electors, who are otherwise qualified according to law, and who reside in the school district may vote in the general election for all member positions, including the at large member position, to be filled."

Furthermore, the board members are currently elected using a three member district method which states, "The school district is divided into three member districts, two board members are elected from each member district and one board member is elected at-large."

All this can be a bit confusing, and many residents of St. Francis do not know where the

district lines are drawn in any case. Opening up the election allows for more people to run, and does not limit well-qualified volunteers based on where they are living, said Superintendent Rob Schiltz.

The board proposes that the plan be changed to "Voting Plan A," which states, "All electors, who are otherwise qualified according to law, and who reside in the school district, may vote in both primary and general election for all member positions."

This would change the above three-member district method to the at-large method, which states, "The school district is not divided into any member districts and all board members are elected at-large."

Before the proposed plan takes place, the plan of change must first be approved by a majority of the electors in the school district voting on the proposed plan change. Voters will see this proposal when they go to the voting booths for the primary election.