

Tornado destroyed home, scattered checks, debris

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News
A twister left the town of Holly, Colo., in shreds Wednesday evening, then moved north, ripping through a feedlot north of town, injuring and killing cattle.

The wind twisted pivot sprinklers into pretzels and dumped them on the road, growing to a high EF3 or 4 rating on the 1-5 Enhanced Fujita scale used by weather experts. That's big enough to flatten a farmstead in it's path and scatter heavy debris more than two miles.

Checks from one Colorado home turned up in St. Francis, more than 120 miles away, the next day.

Jim and Peggy Kalma, who live about 11 miles north of Holly, had decided to go to town for dinner and to a church Bible study on Wednesday. When they heard about the tornado, they headed for home only to find there was nothing left.

The tornado took their home, garage, corrals, barn and vehicles. The Kalmas had a basement, but the force of the tornado had ripped the floor off and dropped pieces of the house into the exposed cellar.

Jim Kalma said Saturday after-

noon he thought the tornado was about a mile wide when it hit his place based on the widespread damage.

"The weather man who talked to me said it looked like an EF4," he said. A National Weather Service assessment team out of Pueblo said the twister was rated as possibly greater than an EF3 on the Enhanced Fujita intensity scale, with winds over 135 mph. In town, it was rated at EF2, much smaller.

Relatives, friends and neighbors spent a third day Sunday combing through the rubble for things that could be saved and hauling the debris off to be buried.

Peggy Kalma said she was both glad and sorry they had not been at home that night. She said she might have had time to save a few things, but looking at the devastation, she said there was a good chance they would not have survived.

She said she had found her digital camera and it was not hurt. She found her purse among the many things that were destroyed.

She said they had found some of her jewelry and old family rings with a piece of a drawer from the



Friends and relatives combed the ground Saturday for family valuables and cleaned up the site of Jim and Peggy Kalma's home 11 miles north of Holly, Colo. The storm swept away the house, garage, corrals, vehicles and a fifth-wheel trailer, spreading debris as far north as St. Francis.

jewelry box her grandmother had made.

"Maybe I can mount that on the wall as a reminder," she said.

Jim Kalma said his gun collection and old coin collection were in the garage, but the safe they were in was undamaged.

He said a rural electric employee

found one of his belt buckles about two miles north of the house and brought it back. The wheels of his fifth-wheel trailer landed about a mile north of the house.

"When I called the insurance guy, I told him it was destroyed," he said. "He told me we could probably find someone to haul it into town so

someone could determine the amount of damage.

"I told him we could find the wheels about a mile away and maybe some of the other pieces. I told him it was a tornado and that the trailer was now in splinters. He just didn't seem to understand."

The couple was not sure about

rebuilding the home.

They said all their old papers for taxes were in the attic, and they weren't surprised to hear a few of the checks had been found as far north as St. Francis.

Jim Kalma said he kept a jar of quarters and buckets of pennies that are being found scattered to the north. He said he doesn't particularly want the checks back, but would like to talk to the people who found them.

Karen Krien, publisher of *The Saint Francis Herald*, said Monday three of Kalma's checks had been found in or near St. Francis so far.

She said one dated Feb. 23, 1980, was found by Jeremiah Neitzel, 8, who saw it on the ground and took it to his parents, saying it looked like it was important. The Neitzels live a mile south of St. Francis.

A second was found in St. Francis by Mark Jenik behind his gas station, Jenik Oil, on Main Street. That one was dated Jan. 31, 1970.

The third, brought to *The Herald* office on Monday, was found by Bob Bixler, who was walking his dogs on the River Walk, just north of town. It was dated Nov. 6, 1990.

Twister victims, injured have ties to Goodland, Colby

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News
Eleven people — including a couple with ties to Colby — were injured in the tornado that hit Holly, Colo., last Wednesday.

More of the injuries occurred at houses on the north side of town, and many of the ones hit hardest were in the Highland subdivision, where the newest homes had been built in recent years.

Robert and Jennie Eastin's home

was one of those with heavy damage. Both were injured and flown to Colorado Springs. The Eastin's are the aunt and uncle of Jennifer Van Nostrand, wife of John Van Nostrand publisher of *The Colby Free Press*. Both are in serious condition at Memorial Hospital in the Springs.

The home of Bill and Ruth Nordyke, father-in-law to Dr. Gary Smith of Prairieland Animal Clinic of Goodland, had the roof blown off

their house. Smith and his wife Debbie are Holly natives. He said the home of his brother-in-law Mike and Sandy Nordyke about a mile north was badly damaged and was torn down on Sunday. He said his brother-in-law Monty's house to the northeast had minor damage.

Mike and Monty have been familiar names to people who follow the Sherman County Speedway where they have raced for many years.

Smith said Tuesday there were other relatives in Holly who had lost homes, and that Bill Lowe, owner of the feedlot north of town had lost 35 head of cattle.

Smith said he had been told a total of 48 homes were destroyed or uninhabitable, but that the damage did not come up to the minimum requirement for aid from the Federal Emergency Management Agency because there had to be 100 homes destroyed to qualify for aid.

Two blocks east, the storm took the roof off the barn at the clinic of veterinarian Richard and Judy Fell. She said several mares and foals inside escaped injury. The only animal that was hurt was one horse in a corral farther north, close to the canal.

Fell said her daughter, Monica Uhlund and family, came from Eads to help clean up the corrals.

She said when Gov. Bill Ritter walked down the street last Thursday, it seemed sort of funny because hardly anyone stopped to say hello. People just kept working. She pointed to the houses facing the clinic and said it was surprising to see that all the holes in the roofs had been covered so quickly.

Gov. Ritter said he is "impressed beyond words" with the resiliency and strength of the people of Holly.

The state has pledged up to \$1 million to help pay for mental-health services, temporary housing and other repairs.

all the people who were helping. It is amazing how much cleaner things look after two days."

The storm devastated houses on the north side of Santa Fe Street, about two blocks west of Main and three blocks south of U.S. 50, including a mobile home where the young mother, Rosemary Rosales, 29, was living. She was killed when the tornado threw her, her husband and 3-year old daughter into a tree.

The Town of Holly said good-bye to the young mother in a funeral service on Wednesday at the St. Francis of Rome Catholic Church. The church was overflowing with people who came to the service.

A semitrailer trailer and truck her husband, Gustavo Puga, had loaded with corn that morning in Ruleton, west of Goodland, lay on its side last Friday afternoon.

The mother, father and 3-year-old daughter Noelia., were blown into a tree by the tornado, and were flown to Memorial Hospital. The father and daughter returned to Holly on Saturday to be reunited with their son and brother, 7-year-old Gus.

Colby votes NO on college plan

COLBY, from Page 1

facilities makes recruiting difficult, Lampe said. The team practices in a makeshift room above the college's swimming pool. Without contemporary, attractive facilities, Lampe said, he fears many students won't be interested.

"I am concerned about our future," he said.

College President Dr. Lynn Kreider said he, too, was disappointed the proposal was defeated, but happy for what the college did.

"We ran a wonderful campaign considering the voter turnout," he said. "All had the information and we brought a lot of new awareness to the college."

Kreider, who began the job in

July 2006, said he has no plans to revise the proposal and try for another vote.

College board Chairman Don Kready said the center proposal reminded him of when the town agreed to build the Community Building decades ago. In 1954, he said, Colby voters approved \$350,000 to build the community building 427-395.

"I'm disappointed," Kready said about Tuesday's vote. "It would have been a boon to Colby. Not too many of us are around when the community building was built, and that had some opposition. What would Colby be like without the community building?"

Included in the college's proposal was a new, 260-bed dormitory. The

current student living centers date back to the late 1960s. With the thousands of students who have lived in them since, they are showing their age.

College officials said they would pursue more grants and other money rather than property taxes to build the \$5 million dormitory. Kready said the dormitory proposal is another way to attract more students.

"The competition for students is high," he said.

Kready said he couldn't speak for the board on whether the board will continue to pursue either a new gymnasium or a new dormitory. He said he would like to review the dormitory proposal, but has no plans to use property taxes to pay for it.

She said last Friday a man from Syracuse showed up with a loader Thursday morning and told her he would get the debris cleaned out of the corrals.

"He said he would have it cleaned up by sundown and he did," she added. "He told me later if he had more trucks, he could have had it cleaned before sundown."

Churches plan Easter services

EASTER, from Page 1

worship at 10:30 a.m. and evening worship at 6 p.m.

The Goodland Bible Church, 109 Willow, will have a breakfast on Easter Sunday at 9 a.m. and morning worship at 10:45 a.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 222 W. 13th, will have services at 9 a.m. Sunday.

Sonrise Christian Church, 907 Caldwell, will have services at 9:30 a.m. and Sunday school at 10:45 a.m.

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SPORTS TELEVISION SCHEDULE

SATURDAY
9 a.m. 23/29 ESPN2 NASCAR Busch Qualifying Nashville
11 a.m. 23/29 ESPN2 Women's Tennis 2007 Bausch & Lomb Championship Semifinal
99/39 WGN MLB Baseball Chicago Cubs at Milwaukee Brewers
12 p.m. 7/11 CBS John Wooden Awards
22/28 ESPN College Spring Football Oklahoma
1 p.m. 23/29 ESPN2 NASCAR Busch Series Countdown Nashville, Tenn.
1:30 p.m. 4/6 ABC MLS Soccer D.C. at Colorado
7/11 CBS The Masters Third-round play
23/29 ESPN2 NASCAR Busch Series Pepsi 300
2 p.m. 22/28 ESPN Horse Racing Wood Memorial

30/27 FXSP High School Basketball 2007 Nike Hoop Summit from Memphis, Tenn.
3 p.m. 5/ HBO World Championship Boxing Joe Calzaghe vs. Peter Manfredo, Jr.; Amir Khan vs. Steffy Bull
3/9 NBC Horse Racing Santa Anita Derby
5 p.m. 22/28 ESPN College Hockey NCAA Frozen Four Championship
8 p.m. 23/29 ESPN2 Women's College Softball Arizona State Lady Sun Devils at Arizona Lady Wildcats
30/27 FXSP MLB Baseball Colorado Rockies at San Diego Padres
SUNDAY
11 a.m. 4/6 ABC NBA Basketball Cavaliers at Pistons
22/28 ESPN College Baseball South Carolina Gamecocks at Florida Gators

23/29 ESPN2 Women's Tennis 2007 Bausch & Lomb Championship
25/38 IND MLB Baseball New York Mets at Atlanta Braves
3/9 NBC NHL Hockey Teams TBA
60/79 UNIV F'bol Liga Mexicana America jaguilas at UNAM Pumas
12 p.m. 99/39 WGN MLB Baseball Chicago White Sox at Minnesota Twins
12:30 p.m. 7/11 CBS The Masters Final-round play
1:30 p.m. 4/6 ABC NBA Basketball Suns at Lakers
8/8 NBC Champ Car Racing World Series in Las Vegas
6 p.m. 22/28 ESPN MLB Baseball Boston Red Sox vs Texas Rangers

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Spread Out!

ACROSS

- Priestly vestments
- Furnace fuel
- To the point
- ___ of faith
- Lhasa ___ (Tibetan dog)
- "Who's Who" group
- Retort to "Are not!"
- "It's been ___!"
- Relating to birth
- Counterirritant concoction
- Web address ending
- Rock's ___ Lobos
- Poor grade
- Workbook segment
- Part of NATO: Abbr.
- Noodlehead
- Celestial hunter
- Bubbling on the stove
- British john
- Item in 2000 election news
- Rhoda's TV mom
- Horse fathers
- The only one-syllable state name
- Six years, for a senator
- Scand. land
- Apply macadam to
- "Shoot"
- Claiborne of fashion
- "___ a Rebel" (1962 hit)
- Yogi Bear's hangout
- Mediterranean nation
- Spinach is rich in it
- "Rule, Britannia" writer Thomas
- Still for rent
- Durante's prominence
- "___ it my way" (Sinatra lyric)
- Victor at Gettysburg
- Took a gander at
- Salon applications
- Slithery swimmer
- Roomy dresses
- Wing it on stage
- End of Ripley's slogan
- Better equipped
- F.A.O. Schwarz goods
- Bowler-wearing comic of old
- Bird on Canada's dollar
- Mall aid
- "In memoriam" item
- Like a churl
- Michael Jackson hairdo, once
- Birthing training
- ___-dink (two-bit)
- Restroom, informally
- Fountain treat
- Like many defeated wrestlers
- Roofing material
- On the run
- Banks in Cooperstown
- Depot postings, for short
- Eyre of literature
- Jazzy Fitzgerald
- Trig function
- "Iliad" city
- Receipt word
- Close-lipped

DOWN

- Crockett's last stand
- Ring-tailed primate
- McCartney's main instrument, in the Beatles
- Primer pooch
- Enticement on a stick
- Commentators' pages
- Quickly, in memos
- Act the couch potato
- Not relaxed
- Pleased as punch
- Communion or baptism
- Marquee name

The

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