

Two Bird City families rebuild from tornadoes

By Linda Schneider

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On March 28, when more than 60 tornadoes touched ground in Kansas, one passed Bird City, barely missing the town but hitting several farms.

Ed and Phyllis Carson's farm did not receive a direct hit, but damage was extensive.

When the couple came up from the basement, they said, the inside of the house did not appear to have been hit too badly. However, they soon discovered the two-story house had been lifted off its foundation and set back down. The home they had lived in for 26 years had to be torn down.

Just northeast of Bird City, the tornado veered toward the Ketzner farm. This time it was a direct hit.

Nick and Heidi Ketzner, along with their sons Dylan and Brady, barely made it into their cellar before the tornado passed right over them. The destruction was complete. The house Mr. Ketzner had bought in 1992 and brought his new bride to was gone. Not one structure on the farm remained undamaged.

Cheyenne County emergency manager Gary Rogers reported an estimated \$240,000 of structural damage done by that one tornado,

not including vehicles, crops or outside structures.

Within 24 hours, the residents of Bird City were out in the hundreds, helping farmers with cleanup. However, the help did not stop there. In the eight months that have followed, meals have been provided, money has been raised, donations have come from private contributors and families to help with the rebuilding. Some of the construction work has been done by Bird City residents, family and friends on weekends.

"The rebuilding is almost complete," said Mr. Carson earlier this month, adding that it has not been easy. Construction work still turns up foundation damage, he said. Still, when thinking about that night and what could have happened, Mrs. Carson said she is thankful.

For the Ketzner family, everything had to be replaced — furniture, clothing, everything. Some things are not replaceable. Mrs. Ketzner cannot locate their wedding album and has been trying to get in touch with the photographer who took the pictures. Nor can she find her baby pictures or her husband's. But life has moved on for the Ketzners; in fact, they will be adding to their family in May.



Planting new trees (above) was just part of the rebuilding for Nick, Heidi, Dylan and Brady Ketzner of rural Bird City. Ed and Phyllis Carson (right), in their rebuilt home, talked about what has happened since the March tornado.

Photos by Linda Schneider
The Bird City Times

matters of record

The following people were booked into the Sherman County Bastille:

Nov. 21 — Charles Edward Sweats, 45, of Minneapolis, for driving while suspended and speeding.

Jack Thrasher, 50, of Kanorado, possession of hallucinogenic drugs.

Nov. 22 — Michelle R. Eicher, 34 of Cheyenne, Wyo., on an arrest warrant for another jurisdiction.

Nov. 24 — Victor Thomas Garcia, 21, of Burlington, Colo. for driving under the influence (second conviction) and battery.

Nov. 25 — Mitchell Henry Gault Shepherd, 25, of Fredonia, N.Y. on a probation violation.

Nov. 26 — Joseph D. Shaw, 19, of Hendersonville, Tenn., for driving while suspended (first conviction) — bond supplied.

Jose Gilberto Hernandez, 31, of Goodland for driving while suspended.

Lamar Steven Adams, 18, of Bird City, for criminal threat.

Goodland Police

The following have been reported to the Goodland Police Department:

Nov. 7 — 11:05 a.m., 2810 Commerce Road, arrested Marcus Lee Graves for driving under influence and driving while suspended. Case referred to county attorney.

4:39 p.m., 1409 College Ave., arrested Casey Wade Duke for disorderly conduct. Case referred to city attorney.

Nov. 10 — 9:49 a.m., 2810 Commerce Road report of criminal damage to city property.

1:20 p.m., 216 E. Fourth, Thomas Terry reported a theft.

Nov. 12 — 3:48 p.m., 812 Broadway Ave., Nick Evert reported being the victim of disorderly conduct. Case referred to county attorney.

Nov. 13 — 9:50 a.m., 1505 1/2 Syracuse Ave., arrested Edward Bernard Jeffries for assault and criminal trespass against Donald Bump, Jr. and Jessica Danielle Senn. Case referred to city attorney.

Nov. 14 — 8:06 a.m., 214 E. 10th, Jeff A. Mason reported motor vehicle burglary and theft.

Nov. 15 — 9:22 a.m., 1200 Walnut Ave., a juvenile was the victim of disorderly conduct. Case referred to county attorney.

Nov. 16 — 8:23 a.m., 304 W. Fifth, Jose C. Alfaro reported criminal damage to property.

8:32 p.m., 2160 Commerce Road, Wal-Mart reported a theft.

10:21 p.m., 1523 Arcade Ave., Delbert W. Majors reported burglary and theft.

Nov. 17 — 12:06 p.m., 516 W. Business U.S. 24, Apt. 507, Virginia M. Yarbrough reported burglary and theft.

Nov. 18 — 4:01 p.m., 2510 Commerce Road, Presto reported theft of motor fuel.

Nov. 20 — 10:05 p.m., 790 D'Lauro Dr., Cassandra Sue Murray reported being victim of domestic battery. Case referred to city attorney.

Nov. 23 — 7:30 p.m., 2510 Com-

merce Road, William Morrey reported a theft.

Nov. 24 — 2:43 a.m., 1600 Center Ave., arrested Victor Thomas Garcia, Jr. for battery against Thomas Cloyd Farr. Case referred to city attorney.

11:11 p.m., 1600 Center Ave., arrested Victor Thomas Garcia, Jr. for driving under the influence. Case referred to city attorney.

Real Estate

The following real estate transactions were reported by the Sherman County register of deeds:

Karen L. Kinlund of Colfax County, N.M., quit claim to Brent A. Kinlund of Colfax County, N.M., the W66' of Lot 1, the W66' of the N18' of Lot 2 and the W62' of the S7' of Lot 2 and the W62' of the N7' of Lot 3 in Block 6, Third Addition to Goodland.

A correction deed: Darrell L. Mann and Sharon R. Mann to Mann Family Trust all of Lots 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 in Block 2, Second Addition to Goodland; the SE/4 of Sec. 11, T8S, R41W, less a tract; and the SW/4 of Sec. 23, T9S, R42W; plus in Ruleton: all of Blocks 1, 2, 3 and 4; Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and Lots 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 and 32 in Block 11; Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and Lots 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 and 32 in Block 12; Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and Lots 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 and 32 in Block 13; Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and Lots 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 and 32 in Block 14; Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, the N18' of Lot 6 and Lots 21, 22, 23, 24, 25 and 26, Block 19; and a tract in the N/2 of the SW/4 of Sec. 22, T8S, R41W.

J.P. Gregory Williams to Jeff Soper Lot 5, Block 59, Original Town of Goodland.

The Sonrise Christian Church to

Diane R. Schindler Lots 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24, Block 5, Third Addition to Goodland.

District Traffic

The following fines have been paid in the Sherman County District Court:

Aug. 12, 2003: Valentin P. Novak was fined \$305 for driving with a suspended license and \$77 for speeding.

Nov. 26, 2005: Jeffrey V. Bowman was fined \$138 for speeding and \$10 for not wearing a seat belt.

Feb. 11, 2006: Shawn D. Spencer was fined \$115 for speeding.

July 27, 2006: Jolene C. Santos was fined \$192 for speeding.

Oct. 8, 2006: Melissa L. Carrera was fined \$156 for speeding.

Feb. 20: Jeffery L. James was fined \$114 for speeding.

May 26: Tony O. Tompkins was fined \$120 for speeding.

May 30: Jennifer J. Halpin was fined \$120 for speeding.

July 23: Pamela K. Weeter was fined \$60 for failure to yield at a stop or yield sign and \$76 for not wearing a seat belt.

July 26: Michelle M. Peterson was fined \$126 for speeding.

Aug. 11: Norman J. Barial Jr. was fined \$114 for improper parking and \$30 for not wearing a seat belt.

Aug. 29: Brett A. Powell was fined \$366 for driving with a suspended license.

Aug. 31: Michael C. Bottino was fined \$156 for improper parking.

Sept. 3: Katherine H. Okeefe was fined \$126 for improper parking.

Sept. 9: Charles D. Tindal was fined \$196 for being over weight limits on wheels and axles.

Sept. 15: Katherine P. McClure was fined \$126 for speeding.



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PUBLIC AUCTION
For Northwest Furniture, LLC and others
DATE: Saturday, Dec. 8th, 2007
Time: 10 a.m. CT (doors open at 8 a.m. day of sale) - Auction Location: 490 E. 4th, Colby, Kan
Preview sale items between 5 - 7 p.m. CT Friday, Dec. 7, 2007

NEW FURNITURE FROM NORTHWEST FURNITURE LLC: Sofa sleeper - queen size: sofa loveseat; 2 sofa's - tan and brown; high back loveseat; 5 wing back chairs - light blue, dark blue, maroon reds; La Z Boy recliners; motorized wall hugger lift chair; table lamps; day bed; bed frames; new vanity; vacuum sweeper bags; assorted new rolls of carpet - various sizes and pad; tile; floor adhesive; carpet cleaner; laminated flooring; 6 wood dividers; 3 - 4 drawer file cabinets, Homelite Generator 4400, acetylene victor torch.
TOOLS: pickup tool boxes, tool box, several hand tools.
FURNITURE: Sleeper sofa, blonde bedroom set, oak hall tree with mirror, pine bench chest, bed with slide.
ANTIQUES: Antique toys, 3 quart Red Wing butter churn, Erector sets.
HOUSEHOLD: Amana washer, newer Whirlpool washer, Hotpoint dryer, newer GE dryer, Whirlpool refrigerator - 20 cu. ft., oak entertainment center, newer surround sound system, speakers, 2 oak bar stools, 8 bar stools, office chairs, canopy swing.
MISCELLANEOUS: Electric handcap scooter, smoker, 100 Hot Wheels (new), 2 stock tanks - rubber, old records, beer signs.

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