

- ✓ June 21, 2017, Omaha World Herald article, Twisters, 100-plus mph wind and hail made for a 'very long night'

June 2017 Information/Education Report

Information:

- Updated the media on river access and tree debris drop-off sites following the storm.
- Worked with media to place coverage on KETV, UNO Magazine and the Douglas County Post-Gazette.
- Provided weekly media placement summary to internal team.
- Increased number of consistent posts on Papio's social media profiles and engaged with constituents.
- Assessed budget and where dollars are currently directed.
- Working on recommendations to redirect budget dollars.
- Met with JGregSmith marketing firm, whom we have worked with for past eight years, to assess success of media buys of PSAs.
- Working to get estimates for new educational videos to be produced.

Education:

June Programming Schedule:

6/5- Millard Library Program-Insects-98 kids
6/5-6/9- Backyard Explorers NRD Nature Camp- 12 kids (4-6yo)
6/12- South Omaha Library- Recycling- 42 children and parents
6/13- Druid Hill Elementary- Owls- 3 programs- 68 students
6/14- Jefferson Elementary- Insects- 2 programs- 98 students
6/19-6/23 Discovering Nature NRD Camp- 28 kids (6-8yo)
6/22- Conestoga Elementary-Reptiles-50 students
6/26- Springfield, NE Library- Owls- 22 children and parents
6/27- Premier Academy- Animals- 51 kids (pre-K)
6/28- Saddlebrook Elementary- Owls- 2 programs- 45 students
6/28- Conestoga Elementary- Owls- 44 students
6/29- Abraham's Elementary- Bird Nests- 29 children and parents

Planning/Coordination:

Posts/Updates/Monitoring of Papio-Missouri River NRD Facebook/Twitter/Google+/Instagram Sites and Web Pages
General NRD Animal Care
Outdoor Classroom Grants
Great Park Pursuit Promotion
Van Maintenance-Brakes/tune-up
45th Anniversary Order pick-up from LPN-NRD
MORE Nature Website Updates
MORE Nature Social Media Posts
Organized Newspaper Drive for Wildlife Rescue
Organized Lake Wehrspann Clean-Up

Meetings/Trainings:

ScienceFest Meeting
Teacher/Landowner Workshop Meeting

Subject:

FW: Thanks Lance!

On Jun 12, 2017, at 9:19 AM, Grube, Michael <mgrube@papiornrd.org> wrote:

I'd like to send out a Kudo's to Lance Olerich for assisting with an emergency medical situation last week.

Friday morning, during the Bike Ride Across Nebraska (BRAN) a fellow bicycle rider was struck by a vehicle on highway 35 east of Wayne. A young driver had clipped the rider with his side mirror, throwing the rider off his bike. I rode up about 10 minutes after the accident occurred to find Lance using his NRD truck and himself to slow and direct traffic while waiting for emergency personal to arrive. The ambulance arrived while I was present, and the rider was transported to Sioux City for treatment; the last update I had was the rider was stable, with no broken bones or life-threatening injury. He was being kept overnight for observation, but would likely be released Saturday morning.

Thank you Lance for stopping and helping ensure the safety of the people on the scene as well as the riders that were still approaching! I and all the other riders appreciated it!

Michael Grube
IT Associate
Papio-Missouri River NRD
402 290-6715

Report on Purchases

Construction Services, Professional Services, Personal Property

June 2017

[illegible]

Updated: June 12, 2017

Current and On-Going Projects P-MRNRD Legal Counsel

★ = Top Priority

F = Future Work – No Assignment

N = New Assignment

O = Others Handling

W = Work in Progress

P = Counsel Portion Completed

B= Next Board Meeting

- **Little Papio:** (Cleveland)
- **Big Papio:** (Cleveland)
- **West Branch:** (Cleveland)
 - ★ Land Exchange with Sarpy Co. (96th St.) (P)
- **Western Sarpy Dike:** (Cleveland/Petermann)
 - NRDs/NE-ARNG Interlocal for Camp Ashland Property (F)
- **Floodway Purchase Program:** (Laster/Grint)
 - Arlington Purchase Agreements, Deeds, etc. – Public Hearing (August Board) (W)
- **Trail Projects:** (Williams)
 - West Papio Trail, Giles to Millard – Potential Tyson Access License Agreement (F)
 - West Papio Trail, Giles to Millard – Qwest LLC License Agreement Potential Termination (P)
- **Missouri River Corridor Project:** (Becic)
 - ★ California Bend Trail Interlocal Agreement with City of Blair (P)
 - Draft Purchase Agreement with Reserved Easement for MUD (Platte River Sites/Missouri River) (N)

- **USDA PL 566 Projects, Silver Creek and Pigeon/Jones Watershed:** (Schumacher/Cleveland)
 - Papio PL 566 Site W-2 Issues (F)
 - ★ Tek-Mud 9A Watershed Structure Bank Stabilization Contract (N)
- **Papio Watershed Dam Sites:** (Grint/Laster/Williams)
 - ★ ROW Acquisition Documents for WP6 & WP7 (F)
 - ★ Transfer Deed to City of Omaha for Zorinsky Basin 1 (P)
 - ★ City of Omaha Interlocal Agreement for ZB-2 (W)
 - ★ WP6 & WP7 Interlocal Agreement with Papillion and Sarpy Co. (P)
 - ★ Purchase Agreements and ROW Documents for Z-B2 (W)
 - ★ City of Omaha Interlocal Agreement Amendment No. 2 for DS-15A (P)
- **Papio Creek Watershed Partnership (Stormwater):** (Grint)
- **Southern Sarpy Watershed Partnership (Stormwater):** (Laster)
 - ★ Interlocal with City of Omaha for Construction Inspections (W)
- **Missouri River R-613 and R-616 Levees:** (Cleveland/Woodward)
 - Offutt AFB Culvert O&M Agreement (W)
 - ★ ROW Acquisition Documents (W)
- **Rural Water Projects:** (Nelson)
- **Other:**

Section of Keystone Trail to close for 4 weeks

- By Jay Withrow / Omaha World-Herald staff writer June 8, 2017

A section of the Keystone Trail — popular with walkers, bicyclists and joggers — will be closed for a month beginning Monday.

Officials said the trail will close from Maple Street northward to about the junction of North 88th Avenue and Keystone Drive.

According to the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District, erosion repairs are needed. A new storm sewer inlet will be installed.

The trail section is scheduled to reopen July 10.

The Public Pulse: Legislature ties NRDs' hands

- Omaha World Herald – June 9, 2017

As a member of the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District Board, I have a responsibility to oversee flood control and water and soil quality issues in an area that includes multiple counties and cities. The board is concerned not only with Nebraska's water and soil but also its people and their well-being.

Despite this, Nebraska Legislature has preempted natural resources districts from using bonds to finance major projects, spreading the cost over many years.

State legislators claim they've preempted local NRD bonding to protect people from property tax increases. But the bonds don't usually raise property taxes — in fact, they may actually lower them.

NRDs are unique to Nebraska, and our state lawmakers should respect these local government entities, their efforts to protect local water and land and the local residents who vote for them.

I'm thankful that groups like the Campaign to Defend Local Solutions are holding lawmakers accountable for preemption.

Patrick Leahy, Omaha



JEFF RUNDY/THE WORLD HERALD

Power poles lie in a cornfield Saturday along Schneekloth Road in Bellevue. Friday's storm damaged power poles and lines as well as high-voltage structures.

TAKING STOCK AFTER STORMS

By MICHAEL O'CONNOR, JOE DEJKA,
 JAY WITHROW, MARCELLA MERCER
 AND ANDREW J. NELSON
 WORLD HERALD STAFF WRITERS

Mike Brundieck read by flashlight and hunkered down in his basement where the air was a little cooler.

He and thousands of others remained without power Saturday evening, 24 hours after a strong storm — and two confirmed tornadoes in the Bellevue area — tore through the Omaha area.

"It's annoying," he said. "(But) it's a fact of life. You've got to deal with it."

After 2 tornadoes, work begins to restore power to tens of thousands in one of largest outages in decades

The Omaha Public Power District said it expects to have power restored to most customers by Monday evening, though about 1,500 people may not have power until Wednesday. OPPD officials said Saturday night that they couldn't yet pinpoint where the customers live who will be the last to get power.

This wasn't a typical summer storm.

Friday's blast tore off roofs, punched holes in homes, downed hundreds of power poles and high-voltage structures and ripped down several miles of utility lines. The storm damaged two schools — one in Bellevue and one in Papillion — and caused significant damage to homes and facilities at Offutt Air Force Base.

At the peak of the outages, roughly 76,000 customers were without power, a count that ranks as the fourth biggest outage in at least four decades, according to the Omaha Public Power District. No serious injuries were reported.

See Storm: Page 4

VIDEO ONLINE Storms leave swath of damage across Omaha metro area. Omaha.com/metro

Storm: Sarpy bore brunt of damage south of Nebraska Highway 370

Continued from Page 1

As of 10:30 p.m. Saturday, about 21,000 customers remained without power, with about 12,700 in Sarpy County, 4,400 in Douglas County and 2,300 in Cass County.

"We are asking customers to be patient," OPPD spokeswoman Paula Lukowski said. "There is just a lot of damage."

OPPD called in crews from other parts of Nebraska and outside the state to help restore power.

Gov. Pete Ricketts, first lady Susanne Shore and Bryan Tuma, assistant director of the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, toured the state Saturday in a National Guard helicopter.

"We saw grain silos that had collapsed," Ricketts said during a press conference Saturday evening at the Plattsmouth Municipal Airport. "We saw garages that were collapsed. Houses and barns where trees had collapsed on. A lot of power lines down; some of those big massive power lines had collapsed — several of them in a row. ... You could see debris strewn across the fields."

Saturday's trip started in the Panhandle city of Bayard, where a tornado tore through the town Monday, and ended on the eastern side of the state in Plattsmouth, which was hit by damaging winds Friday.

A severe weather pattern that began Monday affected most of the state, and NEMA has been assessing damage reports from local emergency managers, the Governor's Office said.

Friday's storm that moved through the area between 7 and 9 p.m. brought winds of more than 80 mph and drenching rain. The Weather Service had unofficial reports of winds more than 100 mph near Fremont and in Omaha near 173rd and F Streets.

Metro-area residents spent Saturday assessing damage and starting to clean up. Sarpy County appeared to take the brunt of the tree and structural damage.

The National Weather Service confirmed two tornadoes in the Bellevue area. An EF 1 tornado with estimated peak winds of up to 110 mph developed just west of Offutt Air Force Base and moved east-southeast across the base property. The second tornado, an EF 2 with winds of up to 135 mph, likely developed in the Two Springs subdivision in Bellevue, moving east-southeast affecting Pipers Glen, then Hyda Hills and Normandy Hills.

Numerous homes in the Hyda Hills neighborhood near 23rd Avenue and Platteview Road have holes in their sides. Several other homes lost roofs. Debris was scattered around the neighborhood Saturday, including soaked insulation in the streets.

Sue Despines of Bellevue stood in her driveway, shocked at the damage. Despines, who lives with her husband, Tim, and other relatives, said they had nothing but the clothes on their backs.

"Your whole life is gone," she said.

Hers was one of three homes in a row on South 20th Street that were heavily damaged.

Her neighbors, Dave and Debbie Rickers, were in Arizona. Their security system alerted them that there was window breakage at their home, so they called their son-in-law John Wolken to check the house.

"We weren't expecting this," Wolken said.

Wolken, who lives in Papillion, said the family was fortunate that his in-laws were not home when the storm hit.

Bellevue Police Chief Mark Elbert said from the photos he's seen and the reports he's heard, at least four homes in Hyda Hills were a total loss. "They look like they're completely demolished."

Another Bellevue neighborhood with significant damage was Two Springs. Some homes there weren't in livable condition, the chief said, and he assigned extra patrols to guard against looting.

"The great news out of this is the amount of neighbors helping neighbors and the amount of families we've seen helping families," said Bellevue Mayor Rita Sanders.

She said Nebraska Highway 370 appeared to be the dividing line for the storm. Sanders described life north of Highway 370 as "perfectly fine ... and not even touched." She said south of Highway 370 there was a strip that "really got hammered."

The storm struck a hard blow to Offutt Air Force Base, said Ryan Hansen, a spokesman for the base's 55th Wing. The base was closed Saturday — and will be again today — to all but mission-essential personnel.

Most of 55th Wing's reconnaissance aircraft were pulled into hangars before the storm, Hansen said, but he acknowledged "minor damage to some aircraft that we're still assessing."

Ryan Mayberry, a storm manager with OPPD, said the storm packed a dou-

ble whammy. He said typical summer storms damage only power poles and lines that feed electricity from substations to customers.

This storm damaged high-voltage structures and lines that carry electricity from the power plant to the substations, he said.

He said OPPD is faced with repairing damage at about 2,000 locations throughout its service area. After a typical summer storm, crews make repairs at about 500 locations.

Crews have to first remove damaged poles and lines, then drill new holes, place new poles and use pulleys to string fresh line, he said.

Crew members sometimes have to climb poles that are more than five stories high to make repairs, work that is particularly hard in backyards and other tight spaces, he said.

news@owh.com, 402-444-1304

Feeling blessed in Bellevue

Chris and Leslie Le of Bellevue worked Saturday in their backyard, clearing debris. The storm smashed into their home near 31st Street and Spring Boulevard, ripping off the roof and second-story walls.

Leslie, who is pregnant and due in December, was home with their sons, Johann, 4, and Sebastian, 3, and her brother, Angel Dominguez, when the storm struck. They took shelter in the basement. She said her brother hurt his arm when he slipped in the home, but everyone is otherwise OK.

"We are blessed. I feel blessed," she said.

Their neighbor Mike Trunick helped the family pick up the mess. Another neighbor, Dan Murphy, said that in comparison, his home sustained minor damage: some siding and the garage door ripped away.

"Thank God they went to the basement," he said of the Le family.



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DAMAGE REPORTS

SARPY COUNTY

Worst of the damage is south of Highway 370, from Springfield to Papillion to Bellevue. Power remained out in much of that swath. About 12,700 Omaha Public Power District customers were still without power in the county as of 10:30 p.m. Saturday.

At least four homes in the Hyda Hills subdivision in Bellevue are likely a total loss. The Two Springs neighborhood in Bellevue also had significant destruction, along with Pipers Glen and Normandy Hills.

Across the south part of the county, the rest of the damage is downed trees, roof damage, missing siding and mangled fences.

People driving through the heavily damaged neighborhoods to see the destruction were impeding some homeowner and emergency personnel efforts.

Bellevue police have assigned extra patrols in areas with extensive damage to guard against looting.

Several highways were closed for a time because of downed power lines and trees.

The 911 trunk lines were restored to the Sarpy Communications Center; dispatchers were moved to a backup facility for a time after the storm.

OFFUTT AIR FORCE BASE

The base had extensive damage to at least six homes, as well as to the Aero Club airplane hangar, the field house gymnasium and several buildings around Offutt's large central parade grounds, said Ryan Hansen, a spokesman for the base's 55th Wing. The base also was dealing with downed large trees and power lines.

Most of the 55th Wing's reconnaissance aircraft were pulled into hangars before the storm, Hansen said, but he acknowledged "minor damage to some aircraft that we're still assessing."

The base was closed Saturday to all but essential personnel and will remain closed today. All base events have been canceled for today, including services at the base chapel and the LSU Tigers baseball team visit.

CASS COUNTY

More than 50 homes in Plattsmouth sustained what Mayor Paul Lambert described as significant damage.

The Buccaneer Bay community along the Platte River northwest of Plattsmouth also was badly damaged. The area was difficult to get to because downed power lines and tree branches made the primary route impassible, officials said.

Louisville had a great deal of tree damage, but it had been mostly cleared up by late Saturday. Several rural farmsteads have collapsed roofs, according to Cass County emergency management.

Power outages were a problem throughout the county. About 2,300 homes were still without power at 10:30 p.m. Saturday.

SARPY SCHOOLS

Two Springs Elementary in Bellevue lost a good chunk of its gym roof and also had broken windows and tree debris, said school district spokeswoman Amanda Oliver.

All of the district's schools south of Highway 370 were without power, she said, but there were no reports of significant damage at those buildings.

Oliver said this will be the final week of summer school at the elementary schools, so the district was working on a plan for where to hold Two Springs' classes. If the other schools remain without power, they will be included in that plan. Classes either will be moved to another location or canceled.

Annette Eyman, a spokeswoman for the Papillion-La Vista district, said some roof repairs will be made Monday at Papillion-La Vista South High School.

There was no other significant damage, Eyman said, but most district buildings lost power. If they don't get power by Monday, the schools without power won't hold activities.

DOUGLAS COUNTY

No significant structural damage was reported, but there was a lot of tree damage, with branches and debris in the streets. The biggest concern of the Douglas County Emergency Management

Agency was getting power restored because of rising temperatures and humidity. As of 10:30 p.m., OPPD reported it had 4,400 customers in the county without power.

WASTE TREATMENT

The City of Omaha's sewage-treatment plant remained without power Saturday night, and untreated sewage was going into the Missouri River.

Jim Theiler, an Omaha Public Works environmental assistant director, said the Environmental Protection Agency and the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality had been notified of the situation at the Papillion Wastewater Treatment Plant, which is in Bellevue where the Papillion Creek empties into

the Missouri River.

Theiler said several buildings at the plant sustained roof damage. Officials do not believe equipment inside the buildings was damaged, so the plant should be able to resume treating sewage after power is restored, he said.

The plant serves areas west of 42nd Street, including Bennington, Boys Town, Elkhorn, Papillion, La Vista and Omaha, as well as Bellevue and Offutt Air Force Base.

STATE PARKS

State parks and recreation areas in Dodge, Lancaster, Cass, Saunders and Sarpy Counties had damaged trees, power outages and minor structural damage, the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission said.

High winds and heavy rain affected "virtually all state parks and recreation areas from Fremont south to Lincoln and Omaha," the commission said.

Crews worked to clean up fallen trees and other property damage on Saturday, and power providers were working to restore electricity.

Prior to and during Friday's storm, Game and Parks employees notified park visitors and helped direct them to safety. No serious injuries were reported.

Staff anticipated that parks will be running as usual by today.

RIVERS

Due to heavy rains and tree damage, all recreation areas along the Elkhorn and Platte Rivers are closed for the weekend and will remain closed until further notice, the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District said.

DODGE, WASHINGTON COUNTIES

Emergency management agencies reported most power was restored in Arlington and the streets have been cleared.

In Dodge County, several hundred customers were still without power Saturday in the towns of Nickerson, Winslow and Hooper. Debris has been removed from streets. A lack of power may affect a lift station/lagoon in Nickerson; a backup generator was not available.

VINEYARD

Soaring Wings Vineyard and Brewing south of Springfield sustained thousands of dollars in damage, an owner said.

Jim Shaw, who co-owns the vineyard near Pflug Road and Nebraska Highway 50 with his wife, Sharon, said his stage and main building took major hits.

"The stage, it's gone," Shaw said. "But the main building did not go down."

He estimated the main building had more than \$100,000 in damage with another \$10,000 to \$50,000 in repair work needed elsewhere on the property.

With the storm approaching Friday night, Shaw evacuated "a couple of hundred people" to the barrel room and bottling area, which have reinforced concrete. "I got the last guy in there and then the door blew in."

GOLF COURSES

Eastern Nebraska golf courses, which are home to thousands of well-established trees such as large cottonwoods, weren't spared by the storm.

The Platteview Golf Club in Bellevue reportedly sustained significant damage.

A member told The World-Herald that the course at 4215 Platteview Road lost 200 to 300 trees and the golf club could be unusable for three to four weeks.

The club's Facebook page said that the course, pool and clubhouse would be closed until further notice.

An employee at the Beatrice Country Club, Graham Southwick, said Saturday that no trees were uprooted and no building damage occurred, "but tons of huge limbs were down."

The limbs were cleared and moved to roughs along the course's fairways by midafternoon and the club was open by 3 p.m. Normal opening time on a Saturday is 7 a.m.

"It was nice not to have structural damage," he said, "because we host the Nebraska Men's Amateur (tournament) at the end of July."

GAGE COUNTY

Beatrice saw damage to buildings on its west side. The Homestead National Monument of America suffered damage to its education center grounds, with several large trees snapped and a radio tower bent over the top of one of the center's buildings.

NORTHEAST NEBRASKA

Hailstones as big as softballs were reported in Madison County; tornadoes were reported in several areas, and hundreds in Scribner and other Dodge County towns lost power.

Cathy Zapotocny, a National Weather Service meteorologist near Valley, said a 110 mph wind gust was reported several miles northwest of Fremont, with 75 to 80 mph gusts at Hooper.

Hoskins residents reported multiple funnel clouds and extensive tree damage. Unconfirmed tornado sightings also came from 8 miles north of Meadow Grove, near Pierce and east of Madison.

The Elkhorn Rural Public Power District headquarters in Battle Creek saw its roof extensively damaged. Winds also destroyed a grain bin northeast of Hoskins and blew roofs off several buildings throughout northeast Nebraska.

SOUTHWEST IOWA

The impact of the storms on southwest Iowa were plain to see, from the shoulders of Interstate 29 littered with metal sheeting to the streets of Pacific Junction choked with fallen trees. Council Bluffs was largely spared, except for power outages.

Along Interstate 29 near the Highway 34 interchange, the I-29 Campground had a few scattered mobile homes. Warehouses across the Interstate were crumpled, and a metal silo beside the road looked like a crushed, discarded pop can.

At the Pacific Junction U.S. post office, employee Stephen Ransom of Glenwood was clearing the sidewalk of branches and limbs. "Glenwood didn't get hit nearly as bad as this," he said.

Power lines crisscrossed the street and the post office had to close because of the mess, Ransom said.

"I checked in on everyone I knew, and doesn't seem like anyone got hurt. So it's not too bad," Ransom said simply.

WILDLIFE

The storm didn't take a toll just on trees, power lines and homes. Laura Stastny, executive director of Nebraska Wildlife Rehab Inc., spent Saturday traveling around to pick up injured animals.

Her efforts focused mainly on assisting injured adult birds hurt by hail and wind, and putting birds' nests back where they belong.

She estimated wildlife officials would pick up more than 100 animals on Saturday and could see even more today.

She said normally the group relies on people to bring animals in, but she's made a lot of trips because people are having a hard time getting out of their neighborhoods.

"Bellevue has such a big cleanup ahead of them, I think they'll be finding animals for several days," she said. "This is one of these big natural occurrences that can really damage wildlife."

By staff writers Marcella Mercer, Jay Withrow, Steve Liewer, Andrew Nelson, World-Herald News Service and AP



With geothermal heat, you could grow oranges and lemons ... during the winter in Nebraska

By TORRI BRUMBAUGH
 SCOTTSBLUFF STAR-HERALD

ALLIANCE, Neb. (AP) — Members of the Nebraska Master Gardener Program eagerly wait as Alliance's Russ Finch cuts an orange. While the excitement for a simple orange seems strange, this orange is different. It is an orange that Finch grew in his own backyard.

Finch was simply a mail carrier and farmer in Alliance, until 45 years ago when he started experimenting with heating houses with geothermal heat. Fifteen years later, he began using the geothermal heat to improve greenhouses.

Geothermal heat produces heat from the ground. A singular heat source dispenses heat into a tubing system that runs under the ground of the greenhouse. The heat is constantly circulating and reused to create the perfect environment for the greenhouse. This means that in Finch's greenhouses, he can grow any tropical or subtropical plant that he wants.

His personal greenhouse is filled with numerous plants, nine varieties of southern grapes, pomegranates, 13 types of citrus fruit and much more. His citrus fruits include Eureka lemons, Meyer's lemons, Cara Cara oranges, Tango mandarins and Washington navel oranges.

At 78 feet long, Finch's greenhouse, the first one he created, is 24 years old.

About three years ago, Finch began to sell the frames, systems

and equipment for geothermal greenhouses through his business, Greenhouse in the Snow.

Compared with his personal greenhouse, the new greenhouses are much more efficient.

The new greenhouses are at least 96 feet long. They also include shelves on one wall to grow ground vegetables and fruit. The other side of the greenhouse is often designated for trees.

"We just put everything in it to see if it'll grow, and almost everything did," Finch told the Scottsbluff Star-Herald.

Finch's geothermal greenhouses appear to be much more efficient than the standard greenhouse.

To run his personal greenhouse, it costs Finch up to 85 cents a day. Other geothermal greenhouses, like the one at Alliance High School, cost up to 97 cents a day. A geothermal greenhouse only costs about \$200 to run through the winter, compared with the \$8,000 it would cost to run a regular greenhouse.

In his greenhouses, Finch can also produce more product than he could if he planted outside.

A greenhouse can produce 14 tomatoes for every one tomato that outdoor farming produces, while with other crops it is often a 50-to-1 ratio, Finch said. Weather is a big factor in this because greenhouses have a controlled environment.

The profit produced by the geothermal greenhouses is a great benefit as well.

"Each tree needs an 8-foot circle and will produce 125 pounds

of fruit. If a pound is usually \$3.50 at a farmers market, that makes each 8-foot circle worth \$430," Finch said.

According to Finch, most young people do not want to get into agriculture because they believe that it is too expensive. Little do they know that a single 3-year-old tractor with four-wheel drive costs the same as putting up nine of Finch's greenhouses. So for those looking to get into agriculture, Finch highly suggests going geothermal.

Finch has sold about 38 greenhouses, and almost all of them have been used for commercial purposes. His greenhouses are now in nine states — including Alaska, South Dakota, Wyoming and Kansas — and two are in Canada.

The Federal Aviation Administration has just given the go-ahead for a greenhouse to be built at the Western Nebraska Regional Airport in Scottsbluff. The greenhouse will be used by the North Platte Natural Resources District. It is estimated that the greenhouse will be put in place in late spring.

With the success of Greenhouse in the Snow, Finch is very hopeful about the possibilities. He is trying to spread his geothermal heat across the globe to countries like Australia, Belgium, Croatia, Denmark, Greece and South Africa.

According to Finch, all of the Midwest's table citrus could be grown locally in greenhouses.



Cities issue calls for aid after powerful storms

Hard-hit areas like Plattsmouth, where about 70 percent of homes were damaged, seek outside help

By EMILY NITCHER, STEVE LIEWER
AND NATALIA ALAMANDARI
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITERS

Damage and cleanup costs from Friday's extraordinary windstorm are expected to outstrip the finances of public entities, so officials are preparing disaster aid requests.

Aid can't come soon enough for communities like Plattsmouth, where downed trees and limbs have piled up and an estimated 70 percent of the homes sustained some level of damage.

"Absolutely," the city needs outside help, said Erv Portis, city administrator for Plattsmouth. "We

got our butts kicked."

The Nebraska Emergency Management Agency is gathering information from local emergency managers regarding damage in more than 30 counties, said Jodie Fawl, spokeswoman for the department.

Bellevue, Papillion and Sarpy County have all requested state disaster aid in the wake of Friday's storm.

About a third of the state's counties had damage last week, Fawl said, beginning on Monday, when a tornado struck the Panhandle

community of Bayard and ending Friday with six tornadoes and the windstorm in eastern Nebraska.

Most of Plattsmouth's 2,200 homes sustained some level of damage in Friday's windstorm, Portis estimated, and 50 were significantly damaged. The picturesque town prides itself on its stately trees, and many of them were lost in this storm, he said. Even the cemetery is not safe due

See Storm: Page 2

Storm: Trees were downed in Plattsmouth, at Offutt

Continued from Page 1

to the downed trees.

"We've got a lot of big, beautiful trees, and we've lost a lot of them," he said.

That story was repeated across eastern Nebraska, western Iowa and parts of northern Kansas and Missouri.

The two most damaging tornadoes struck Sarpy County, and three days later, on Monday, Mother Nature's impact was still coming into focus.

At Offutt Air Force Base, a tour Monday showed "pretty extensive damage," according to Col. Michael Manion, commander of the base's 55th Wing.

Manion said it was fortunate that the EF-1 tornado struck on a Friday evening, when few workers were there and many military families were away.

The tornado, less powerful than the EF-2 that hit southern Bellevue, damaged several homes and knocked down about 250 trees at the base's Willow Lakes Golf Course.

Many roofs lost shingles, including the roofing on one corner of the Offutt Field House, the base's hangar-sized gymnasium.

The base reopened to nearly normal operations Monday after being closed to all but essential personnel over the weekend.

VIDEO ONLINE

Bellevue residents deal with the aftermath of Friday's tornadoes. Omaha.com/metro

Manion said flight operations were also suspended over the weekend but are expected to resume today.

The tornado struck Offutt just a few days after Manion took command of the 55th Wing, which operates the base.

"This is my first week in Nebraska," said Manion, who grew up on a dairy farm in Missouri. "It was an interesting night."

The storm struck at the outset of Papillion Days, and the timing couldn't have been worse for the local Dairy Queen. The festival is the restaurant's biggest-grossing weekend.

Instead of serving up ice cream Friday night, owner Mick Pierce said employees were taking shelter in the walk-in cooler when the storm hit. No one was hurt and the building wasn't damaged, but the store lost power for almost 24 hours.

About 360 gallons of ice cream spoiled, and cakes made for Father's Day and birthdays were ruined along with food and toppings for the ice cream. An early loss estimate was more than \$10,000, he said.

After cleaning up, the restaurant reopened Monday night.

Dan Fuller, store director of the Hy-Vee in Papillion, said the power at his store went out Friday night and was restored Saturday about 6:15 a.m.

Hy-Vee has been loaning out freezer space to other businesses when it can, Fuller said.

Hy-Vee stores were also offering online delivery to Bellevue residents through Thursday to help people restock.

The neighbors on Parkway Drive in Bellevue will be among those who have to restock. After being without power for a third day on Monday, most of the block's residents were out on their porches early Monday afternoon.

Mary Santana has had trouble getting up the stairs because the electric chair she got after a stroke a few years ago isn't working. If the power wasn't back on by Monday night, she said, she and her husband, Robert, would be going to a hotel.

World-Herald staff writer Nancy Gaarder contributed to this report.

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POWER OUTAGES

As of Monday night, 3,200 were still without power, mostly in Douglas, Sarpy and Cass Counties.

TREE DEBRIS

Communities and neighborhoods in eastern Nebraska and western Iowa are collecting tree debris from the storm, including Bellevue, Omaha, Papillion, La Vista, Plattsmouth and Sarpy County SIDs. Visit each community's website for more details or go to Omaha.com for a list of times and locations.

OTHER DEBRIS

Some cities are also taking non-tree debris. Bellevue has said it's working on creating a transfer station for other debris at Haworth Park, though the details have not been finalized. Papillion said any storm-damaged items can be dropped off at the city's dump site, at 99th Circle and Portal Road.

DISASTER AID

Sarpy County, Papillion and Bellevue have each sent disaster aid requests to Gov. Pete Ricketts

FOOD BENEFITS

Eastern Nebraska residents who take part in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program can apply to replace their food if they experienced a power outage of four hours or longer that caused their food to spoil.

To apply, those affected must contact the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services by June 26 by calling 800-383-4278 or visiting a local HHS office. Omaha residents can call 402-595-1258.

After a recipient's address is verified, it can take up to four days for clients to receive replacement benefits.

TETANUS SHOTS

People helping clean up storm

debris should make sure they have had a tetanus vaccination in the past 10 years, the Douglas County Health Department said Monday.

Tetanus bacteria usually are found in soil and dust, officials said.

Anyone who suffers an open wound, laceration or deep puncture wound should contact his or her doctor, health officials said.

ZORINSKY LAKE

The City of Omaha and the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality tested the lake Monday and will do so again today. Consecutive satisfactory test results are needed before the city clears the lake for wading and other forms of direct bodily contact, said Jim Theiler, the Public Works Department's assistant director for environmental services.

Raw sewage flowed across the park and into the lake this weekend after the storm knocked out power to a sewage lift station.

HELP WITH FOOD

Residents of the Tregaron Senior Residences in Bellevue were provided food by local organizations after their food spoiled after two days without power.

The independent living apartments at 2315 Greenwald St. avoided major damage. But more than 200 residents didn't have electricity for 48 hours, said Amanda Anderson, the assistant property manager. The Salvation Army and Food Bank for the Heartland brought food Sunday and Monday and also will today, Anderson said.

Justus Decher, whose mother-in-law lives at the residence, said he also brought meals to residents from his church, Metropolitan Community Church of Omaha.

TRAIL

The Papio NRD announced Monday that because of storm

damage, the MOPAC trail in the Springfield area is closed at the parking lot at the Highway 31 and Highway 50 interchange to Pflug Road until further notice.

LUNCH

Woodmen Life employees were grilling hamburgers and hot dogs Monday for those affected by the storm and those helping clean up. They will be back today behind the District 4 Firehouse in Bellevue, near 25th Street and Blackhawk Drive, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

GENE EPPLEY CAMP

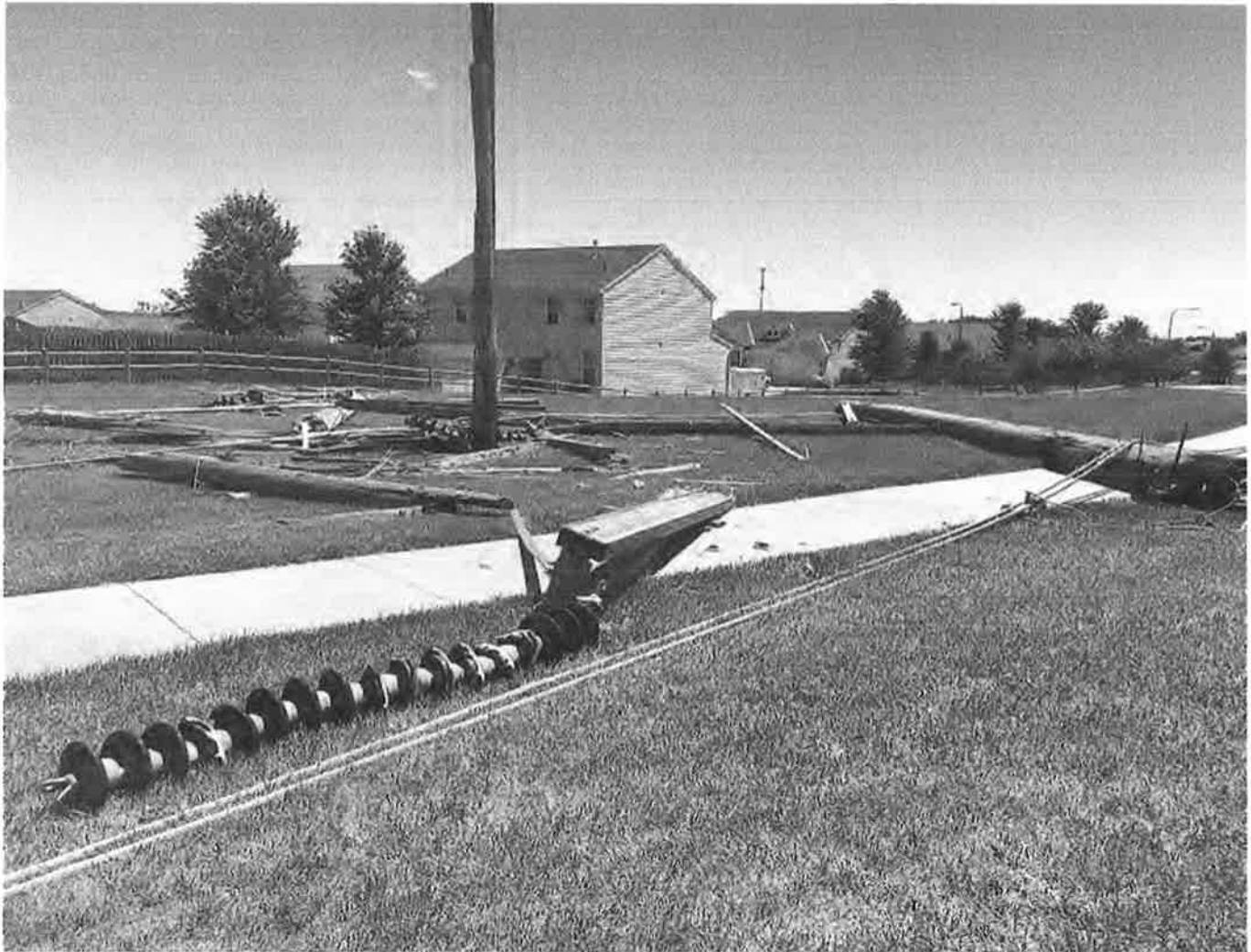
The Salvation Army Gene Eppley Camp north of Plattsmouth was extensively damaged in Friday's storm, causing camp activities to be postponed for 175 youths.

Several buildings, automobiles and other equipment were damaged, and dozens of trees were uprooted or shredded, according to a press release from the Salvation Army.

Camp administrator Major Lee Ann Thompson has set a goal of reopening by Saturday and is seeking public donations: cash contributions for storm cleanup and other expenses not covered by insurance, bottled water, outdoor games, replacement trees and a four-wheeler/Gator for a nurse's emergency vehicle and an extra-large golf cart for the physically disabled. (Loaners would be accepted.)

Monetary donations can be mailed to the Salvation Army, 10755 Burt Circle, Omaha NE, 68114 or made at www.salarmyomaha.org. Checks can be made out to the Gene Eppley Camp Disaster Fund. Donated items can be dropped off at the Salvation Army's Emergency Disaster Services facility, 10629 Burt Circle. For more information, call 402-898-5906.

— **Emily Nitcher, Alia Conley, Nancy Gaarder and Jay Withrow**



NATALIA ALAMPART/THE WORLD-HERALD

A power pole blocks a sidewalk on Monday in the Kingsbury Hills neighborhood of Papillion, which has requested emergency aid.

Twisters, 100-plus mph wind and hail made for a 'very long night'

Ricketts declares state of emergency in affected areas; damage could top \$1 million in Douglas County alone

By MARY KLECKER
 and EMILY NITCHER

WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITERS

The supercell thunderstorms that brought hurricane-speed winds and six tornadoes to Nebraska on Friday started brewing over Pierce County in the late afternoon.

By 6 p.m., three short-lived tornadoes had already touched down — one near Meadow Grove, one near Madison and one near Hoskins. The storm system then tracked southeast, nailing areas near Genoa with tennis-ball-size hail, whipping farmland north of

Fremont with wind speeds of 110 mph, toppling semis in Lincoln and downing trees all along its route.

Before the storms left Nebraska at about 11 p.m., three more tornadoes touched down — one in Lincoln, one in Bellevue and one near Offutt Air Force Base. The Bellevue tornado, an EF-2 that traveled more than 9 miles across the southern parts of the city, brought 135 mph winds.

"Winds of more than 100 mph are incredible and a rare thing," said David Pearson, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service office in Valley. Pearson said

the "pockets of more severe damage" along the system's route are due to the natural strengthening and weakening cycles of a storm.

Gov. Pete Ricketts, who surveyed the storm damage over the weekend, declared a state of emergency within areas of the state that were affected by the storm.

The proclamation will allow for a state response in support of local governments for stormy weather that started June 12 when a tornado hit the Panhandle community of Bayard and ended with the six tornadoes and windstorm in eastern Nebraska.

The state can assist cities and counties by providing equipment, workers or whatever else might

See Storm: Page 2

FRIDAY'S STORM

■ Tornado touchdown or path and rating
 ● Hail ● Wind



SOURCE: National Weather Service THE WORLD-HERALD

Storm: 'This is one people will be talking about for a long time,' meteorologist says

Continued from Page 1

be needed, said Bryan Tuma, assistant director of the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency.

If the damage exceeds the capabilities of the state, then the governor can seek a federal declaration.

It's too early for NEMA to have total damage estimates. However, Nebraska can include its public utilities when totaling up damage to the state.

Preliminary reports from public power districts are approaching the \$10 million mark, Tuma said.

NEMA is still gathering information from local emergency managers regarding damage in more than 30 counties, said Jodie Fawl, spokeswoman for the department. Not all of those counties are requesting state aid.

Among those that are asking for the state assistance are Bel-

levue, the third largest city in the state, and Nickerson, which has less than 500 people.

Nickerson Village Board Chairwoman Nettie Aufenkamp said trees are broken and twisted, cars and homes are damaged and the town lost power twice.

Cleanup continued Tuesday. Aufenkamp said on Monday that a trailer took 55 loads of tree branches and debris to a city park, where the branches are being dumped.

Douglas County Emergency Management is still working to get a damage estimate, but Director Paul Johnson said it will likely top \$1 million, mostly because of damage caused by fallen branches.

Plattsmouth City Administrator Erv Portis said clearing branches from roads, parks and the city cemetery will take several weeks.

"We've got more downed trees than I thought imagin-

able," Portis said.

Downed branches and power outages made for a "very long night" on Friday for Plattsmouth emergency crews, said Michael Wood, director of the city's emergency management system.

At about 9 p.m. that night, crews responded to a call from a couple camping along the Platte River. The 39-year-old woman had suffered a head injury when a tree branch fell on her, Wood said. For more than two and a half hours, more than 20 people — rescue crews, public works staff and good Samaritans — worked to cut and clear branches from the road so they could get to the woman. Finally, the man she was camping with carried her to the crews and a waiting helicopter. The woman was taken in serious condition to the Nebraska Medical Center.

The Cass County 911 call center was also without power for

about two hours, Wood said. By the time the power returned, the calls were so backlogged and the streets so clogged with fallen branches that emergency responders just "hoofed it on foot," Wood said. Crews split up and went door to door to check on residents. "It was quite the night, but all things considered, we came out OK," Wood said. "This could have been a whole lot worse."

Sarpy County's 911 center also had some problems after the storm.

For those who saw and heard the windstorm, for those who will spend the next days and weeks cleaning up, Friday's storms won't soon be forgotten, Pearson said.

"This is one people will be talking about for a long time."

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**CONSTRUCTION/
DEMOLITION DEBRIS**

Bellevue drop-off site: Two Springs Elementary School, 3001 Spring Blvd., parking lot. Items such as appliances, liquids, tires, hazardous waste or tree debris are not accepted. Daily, 6 a.m. to 3 p.m., except Sundays, through June 28.

Bellevue curbside pickup: Additional containers or bags of debris are allowed, as are two bulky items, per pickup. None should exceed 75 pounds. Through June 28 on regular trash pickup days. For additional pickup, for a fee, contact Papillion Sanitation, 402-346-7800.

Papillion drop-off site: 99th Circle and Portal Road, accepting storm-damaged items such as fencing, roof shingles, siding, deck material and trampolines.

TREE DROP-OFF SITES

Omaha: Towl Park, 9310 West Center Road, and Ta Ha Zouka Park, 905 Elkhorn Drive. Hours, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. until Saturday. Proof of City of Omaha residency required.

Bellevue: Haworth Park north of the softball fields, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. through June 28. Curbside pickup of branches less than 6 feet long.

Papillion: 99th Circle and Portal Road. Curbside pickup this week of limbs less than 6 feet long. Tree debris must be placed in piles between the street and the sidewalk.

Springfield: Spruce and Railroad, Main and Railroad and Third and Poplar.

La Vista: La Vista Soccer Complex, east side of 66th Street, three blocks south of Harrison Street. Daily, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. through June 26.

Sarpy County SIDS: Starting Thursday, curbside pickup of tree limbs less than 6 feet long.

Plattsmouth: East end of Main Street, past the railroad tracks. This week, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Papio-Missouri Natural Resource District: Wehrspann Lake, south area, on the south side of Nebraska Highway 370 at about 158th Street.

Cass County commercial contractors and residents of Buccaneer Bay, Beaver Lake, Copper Corral, Copper Dollar Cove and rural areas may use the county recycling site, 13860 12th St.

NEW SHELTER OPENS

The American Red Cross on Tuesday opened a Bellevue shelter at the First Baptist Church Community Center, 206 E. 23rd Ave. Anyone whose home has been damaged or who remains without power is welcome, according to the agency. The shelter will provide overnight accommodations, air conditioning, meals and referral to community services.

People are asked to bring pillows, bedding, towels, clothing and personal items such as medications or food to meet dietary needs. Individuals also will need identification to show residency in the affected area.

SEWAGE PLANT FUNCTIONING

Power has been restored to the Papillion Creek Wastewater Treatment Facility, bringing an end to the discharge of untreated sewage into the Missouri River. Recreational users of the Missouri River no longer face the risk of contact with untreated sewage from the plant.

Summer's officially here: Warmth and possible storms on tap

Warm weather continues and storms are possible through Thursday, forecasters say, before temperatures begin falling Friday.

Today is the first full day of summer as the solstice occurred at 11:24 p.m. Tuesday. The solstice marks that point where each day begins to see less daylight.

Mostly sunny skies and highs in the upper 80s and low 90s are likely today and Thursday. Storm chances are highest in the afternoons and evenings and greatest Thursday. Severe weather risks include high winds, heavy rain and hail, the weather service said.

A chance of showers lingers into Saturday. Highs in the 70s are forecast Friday into the weekend.

The average high for the Omaha area in mid- to late June is 85 and the average low is 62. — **Jay Withrow**



KENT STEVENS/THE WORLD HERALD

The Hyda Hills neighborhood of Bellevue is among the communities that are asking the state for assistance after Friday's tornadoes, damaging wind and hail.