



A HOPPER BIN was toppled over by Heil.



A PONTOON on Sea Legs was flipped at Lake Tschida.



OMINOUS CLOUDS moved in over Lake Tschida.



A LARGE TREE was uprooted in Elgin and crushed the fence.



HIGH WINDS destroyed a fence in Elgin.



THIS GARDEN SHED in New Leipzig was flattened.

# Storm slams Grant County with hurricane-force winds

## Derecho causes widespread damage across region

By Jill M. Friesz  
jill@gspublishing.net

What began as a picture-perfect summer day in Grant County quickly turned into a night to remember, and one many residents won't soon forget.

Friday's sunshine and mid-80s temperatures made for ideal conditions as crowds flocked to the area for the annual Highway 21 Rummage Sale and the kickoff of the Elgin Celebration and All-School Reunion. But as the evening approached, a predicted weather system intensified into a powerful and fast-moving derecho, slamming into Grant County around 7:15 p.m. with winds topping 90 miles per hour in some locations.

Members of the Elgin Celebration Committee had been watching the skies and weather reports closely throughout the day. Volunteer firefighter and committee member Brian Richardson was in regular contact with the National Weather Service to monitor any threats to public safety. "With so many people in town — including those staying in campers — we wanted to be as prepared as possible," Richardson said. "Our goal was to keep everyone safe."

As evening activities got underway including hamburgers in the park, bingo in the community

center, and a lively corn-hole tournament along Main Street, the weather took a dramatic turn. Dark clouds rolled in, and the winds followed with a vengeance.

In Leith, wind speeds were clocked at 71 mph. North of New Leipzig saw gusts of 94 mph, Lark hit 88 mph, and Mott recorded 92 mph. Prairie Knights Casino reported gusts of 68 mph. Residents scrambled for cover, seeking shelter in open buildings or designated storm shelters like the one located on Elgin's south side.

Lake Tschida bore the brunt of the storm, where damage was extensive. Boats and docks were battered, trees were torn from the ground, and a camper was flipped onto its side along Highway 49 near the Heart Butte Dam. Elsewhere in the county, grain bins were crumpled, trees snapped like twigs, sheds shifted off foundations, quonset doors were ripped away, and hopper bins were knocked over.

The storm caused 982 power outages across Grant County, with damage reported to both distribution and transmission lines. While some residents saw power restored within minutes, others waited up to 48 hours. Teams from Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative and Montana Dakota Utilities worked tirelessly through the weekend to bring power back online.

Jared Fischer, Grant County Emergency Coordinator, praised the community's swift response: "It's amazing how the community came together — cleaning up and checking on each other. It shows that we are a very resilient people, and we take care of each other."

City of Elgin Maintenance Engineer Wayne Iszler, along with members of the Elgin Celebration Committee, Elgin Fire Department, among others were up early Saturday morning clearing debris and fallen trees to ensure roads and walkways were safe for continued weekend events.

The National Weather Service officially classified the event as a derecho - a long-lived, violent windstorm characterized by a band of rapidly moving storms. After tearing through western North Dakota, the storm system pushed eastward, producing 13 confirmed tornadoes, destroying homes, and tragically claiming three lives.

Despite the damage, community members are focused on recovery and grateful that no local injuries have been reported. For many in Grant County, the storm was a sobering reminder of nature's power — and the strength that comes from facing it together.

*Thank you to those who shared photos of the damage.*

### Notice of Public Organizational Meeting and Election

#### Glen Ullin Rural Ambulance District

As required by N.D.C.C. 23-27-07, the territory described below must organize into a Rural Ambulance Service District. Therefore, notice is hereby given to all qualified electors living within the boundaries of the territory described below, Wednesday July 9th – 6 pm at Glen Ullin Fire Hall located at 206 South 2nd Street, Glen Ullin, ND 58631 an organizational meeting will be held to form the Glen Ullin Rural Ambulance District and elect a Board of Directors.

Immediately following the organizational meeting, the District Board of Director's will hold a public meeting with the following agenda.

1. Call the Meeting to Order
2. Nomination and Election of officers
3. Current ambulance service overview to District Board
4. Discuss Next Steps
5. Set next meeting date
6. Adjourn

#### TERRITORY OF THE GLEN ULLIN RURAL AMBULANCE DISTRICT

Township	County	Range	Sections
Woodward Birtsell	Mercer Oliver		141-88 Sections 20-29,32-36
			141-87 Sections 19-22,26-35
			140-88 All of 1-36
Estabrook	Morton		140-87 Sections 1-23, West ½ of 24, 25, 26 excluding SE ¼, 27-28, 29 excluding SE ¼, 30-32
Nordmore	Morton		140-86 Sections 6, West ½ of 7 139-90
Larrabee	Morton		Section 36
Florance Sykeston	Morton Morton		139-89 Sections 1-3,10-15,22-27,31-36
Bilodeau	Morton		139-88 All of 1-36
			139-87 Sections 2-11,14-23,26-35
			138-90 Sections 1,12,13-14,23-26,35-36
Wyard Carrington Rose Hill	Morton Morton Morton		138-89 All of 1-36
Haven	Grant		138-88 All of 1-36
			138-87 Sections 5-8,17-18, East ½ of 20, West ½ of 21, NE ¼ of 28,31-33
			137-90 Sections 1-2,11-14,23-26, All of 35 North of River, 36
Rolling Prairie Johnson Hawksnest	Grant Grant Morton		137-89 All of 1-36
			137-88 All of 1-36
			137-87 Sections 4-9,16 excluding SE ¼,17-21, South ½ of 22, 27-33
Longview	Grant		136-90 Sections 1-4 N of River, 10-12 N of River
Melville	Grant		136-89 Sections 1-6, 7-11 N of River, 12, 13-14 N of River
Bordulac	Grant		136-88 Sections 1-10,12,16-18
Bucephalia City of Glen Ullin	Grant Morton		136-87 N ½ of 6 All of City

Published per N.D.C.C. 11-28.3-05  
Published June 26, July 3, 2025