

Holyoke Elementary collects funds after Oklahoma tornado

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

Moore, Okla., a suburb of Oklahoma City, was hit Monday afternoon, May 20 by one of the worst tornadoes in history.

As of Tuesday morning, an article by CNN reported 24 people were confirmed dead, including nine children, with reports of at least 100 people pulled alive from the rubble.

The tornado destroyed a hospital and two schools while flattening homes and businesses. The National Weather Service estimated early on that the tornado was an EF4, a rating given to tornadoes with winds between 166 and 200 mph.

The eerie part is that the same area was struck by tornadoes in 1999 and 2003.

After the devastation of this week's storm, staff and students at Holyoke Elementary School decided to collect money for the American Red Cross, one of the first agencies on scene at the many disaster areas in Oklahoma.

The Red Cross, which operates on mostly donated dollars and items, provides shelter, food, comfort and support to the many families affected by the storm.

Holyoke Elementary students are collecting pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, dollars and checks (made out to American Red Cross) in jars placed in each classroom. The jars will be collected and totaled on Friday, May 24.

HHS grad loses home in tornado in Oklahoma

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Early Tuesday morning, the Enterprise office became aware that Tiffany Castle lost her home in Monday's tornado. Castle is a 2001 Holyoke High School graduate and the daughter of Yolanda Wittman of Holyoke.

According to her Facebook page, Castle's home was "demolished," but her family is safe. "Today begins our next chapter in this story, where we pick up our pieces and move on," she said, noting she is thankful for their lives and that they have the opportunity to rebuild, as some were not that lucky.

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