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Mon May 12, 2008



After the tornado: Monday morning in Picher

By John Sutter
Staff Writer



Picher is still today.

The wreckage of Saturday's tornadoes stands as a silent, statuesque reminder that six people died here, and another 14 died in Missouri.

Fog rose this morning from a lagoon where rescuers here found some of the bodies. It lit up in the sunrise.

Winds that were whipping through the area yesterday have calmed. All around are the remnants of peoples' lives. The frames of their homes look like scattered toothpicks. Scrap metal is folded around trees that shed their bark in the storm. Winds threw a red truck onto its side. It's still stuck to a tree. So is a pink bicycle. Its tire is twirled around a branch like a licorice stick.

But the story seems to be down in the details. In the rubble of the homes, you'll find a Polaroid picture album, a plaid blazer, an empty gold picture frame, a lone bedpost, a lace table runner, a gray shawl, a cowboy boot, a blue rocking chair, a ceiling fan turned upside down, a broken coffee mug, a deck of playing cards and a broken VHS tape with a case labeled "Matt & Julie's Wedding."

After being blocked most of yesterday, residents will be let into town today to survey the damage.

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▶ Mr. Inhofe, as fellow aviator you know me from my comments to your office in the past. I hope you will rain in some dignity in the Senate and not allow any politics to get in the way.

Sparky (Mark), Oklahoma City - May 12, 2008 12:46 PM

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▶ Stay strong. You are in our prayers and thoughts.

ED, DUMAS - May 12, 2008 11:28 AM

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