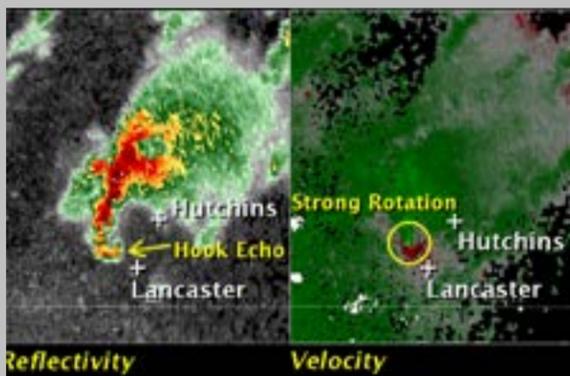


One Year Anniversary of the April 3, 2012 Lancaster Tornado

LISD Special Edition COURIER

A publication by the Student Journalists of Lancaster High School for the Lancaster Independent School District and the community of Lancaster, Texas
"In order to shine, you must embrace the grind"



Lancaster High School Science Teacher James Joseph-Raj took this photo, using his phone, from his classroom window. The photo faces North. In the distance you can see Wintergreen Road and Cedar Valley College.

Written by: staff (@lisdcourier)

On April 3, 2012 at 1:16 p.m., an EF-2 tornado touched down in Lancaster and stayed on the ground for 7.1 miles. The twister was two football fields wide (200 yards) and had maintained wind speeds over 130 MPH.

While only 10 people were injured and there were no deaths from this storm; more than 300 structures were damaged by the tornado and approximately 150 homes were completely destroyed. Twenty-one LISD staff members and approximately 100 students were directly affected by the tornado.

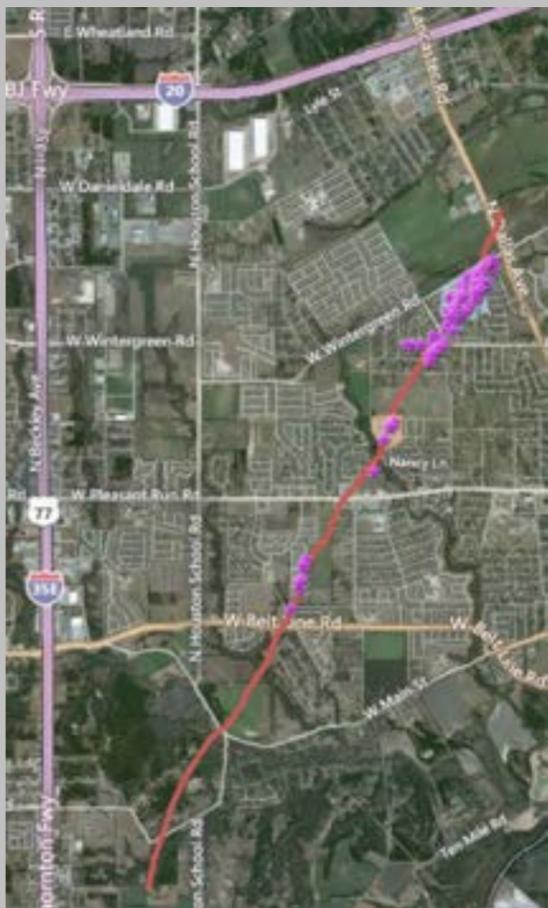
As soon as the skies cleared on that Tuesday afternoon, the community and the school district mobilized to help pick up the pieces. LISD was instrumental in the first steps of the recovery efforts. Beverly D. Humphrey Tiger Stadium was used as a staging area for local, state and national media covering the weather event. The high school's indoor athletic facility was used for the distribution of relief supplies and monies by private and public relief agencies.

Lancaster High School students also were able to play a role in the recovery effort. Numerous clubs and organizations volunteered at the indoor facility to help distribute relief supplies. LISD Media students were involved in the press tours and got to interview numerous local, state and federal officials - including Texas Governor Rick Perry during his tour.

City of Lancaster Police Department Public Information Officer Paul Beck told reporters "These storms have brought us together as a community. The outpouring from the community has been staggering."

Lancaster Mayor Marcus Knight told the media "Our community is made up of fighters, we will pull together as a collective to rebuild our lives."

One year on, the rebuilding does continue – but for most all of the 21 staff members and approximately 100 students – normalcy has returned to their lives.



Storm Damage



Storm Recovery



All photographs taken by LHS Media students.