Support the Panthers!

By: Casey Brunton

“I didn’t think there would actually be a tornado so I went outside to look, then move my jeep into the street. I saw the tornado coming right for my house so I ran inside. As soon as I shit the basement door I heard the glass break, and it sounded like a chainsaw was tearing apart my house and I was under a train. Then fifteen seconds later I walked up to a destroyed home,” said Cole Klein, a junior at Washington High School, who one of many who lost their homes November 17.

With many homes destroyed, it has left these people homeless and helpless. Washington has received support from the entire country yet they still need more.

“Initially people rushed in and help pull people out of wrecked homes and then went in to help clean up,” stated Washington junior Jake Miller. Miller’s home was one of numerous friends and loved ones who rushed to the scene to help the victims of the tornado. The cleaning up process was a long one, but everyone managed to pull together to clean out what was left of the houses.

There were many reports of looting in several houses in the neighborhoods of destroyed homes; therefore, most all people are done collecting items out of their homes. Now it is time to start moving debris and rebuild. One place that needs volunteers is Bethany Community Church in Washington. The church has taken over most volunteer work for the rebuilding of Washington.

The surrounding communities have really helped out Washington in their time of need. Miller said, “Most the businesses in Washington help out and even a lot in the neighboring towns. Even the Bears and Packers have sent stuff!” Several Bears football players visited Washington High School Wednesday December 3 to pose for pictures with the students at lunch and help clean the community.

There have also been several t-shirts made by various different local businesses as well as Morton High School selling shirts at lunch for 309 Strong. These shirts show support for the conference rival. There are also Washington Strong shirts sold at both TeamWorks and Brunks Sports Center in Washington ranging from $15-$20.

The tornado may have wrecked homes and memories, but they have not wrecked the hope and unity of Washington. Also a Washington student, Jacob Lee stated, “The tornado has brought us as not just a community but a conference together. It’s amazing to see all the support from the surrounding towns. The rebuilding is going to take a long time but everyone’s really committed to helping each other.”

Although they are the Potters’ rival team in sports, Morton High School will continue to support Washington as they get back on their feet with fundraisers to come during winter sports.