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THE SETTLER

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Vol State must help rebuild a destroyed community

Vol State, along with the surrounding community in Gallatin, felt the wrath of Mother Nature on Friday, April 7th, 2006.

The powerful storm, which swept through Middle Tennessee, across the Vol State campus as well as the nearby businesses, forever left its mark in history.

The smashed and mangled car lots directly across the highway serve as a reminder of just how ruthless the situation was. In the wake of the merciless wind, Noble C. Caudill Hall lies in ruins, and half of the Ramer Administration Building is non-functional.

The next few weeks will be chaotic at best, with many symptoms analogous of the first weeks of a new semester at school. New class locations and cramped parking, along with the construction, will make this perhaps the most difficult two weeks in recent school history.

Through all of the chaos and destruction that took place at Vol State, for students and faculty who are not native to the area, it is easy to forget that, though Vol State took a lot of damage, it fared much better than some of the local neighborhoods and businesses.

Vol State was but a brief stop

along the path of destruction that commenced in Goodlettsville and ranged for miles through the Northern area of Hendersonville and the Southern part of Gallatin, finally leaving our community around the Cairo area on the eastern edge of Sumner County.

Along that winding ribbon of death and destruction are strewn not only pieces of houses, but also pieces of lives.

Whether just simply the irreplaceable pictures or the spoils of a life's work, the people of the affected areas lost almost everything.

While possessions lost can be replaced, people can not, and the death toll continues to rise, which serves as a reminder that our loved ones are the greatest gift of all.

As people start to scrape their lives together and pick up the pieces, it is time to step up as a community and hold each other upright as we struggle under the weight of rebuilding Sumner County.

In times such as these, small acts of kindness can become great contributions.

Whether it is a hot meal, a kind word or a little compassion, if individuals lend a hand during these dark times the impact on a person's life can be enormous.

When Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast, Vol State faculty and students were there to lend assistance during the aftermath.

Many clubs held projects, some campus-wide, which sent relief to the coastal area. It is now time to help the community that our school calls home.

The disaster is no longer miles away, but it is here in our own backyards.

This is even more motivation to offer help where it is needed.

There is a reason that Vol State is a community college. It is because Vol State is directly connected to the community that it serves. A healthy Gallatin leads to a great Vol State.

While Vol State's students and faculty struggle to face the obstacles of rebuilding- not only with this academic semester, but for years to come- the whole campus must remember that the while we are now facing the inconceivable possibility of having to rebuild, at least Vol State was given that chance.

As we takes steps to restore and move toward the future, it is the responsibility of everyone at Vol State to help ensure that communities in Sumner County rebuild along side us.



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COMING THIS WEEK!

The Settler would like to extend a special thank you to all of our guest contributors, and especially Western Kentucky University for allowing us to use their facilities to layout this week's edition.

All interviews were compiled by Sarah Kingsbury, Neil Siders, and Brian Estes.