

Tornado survivors begin rebuilding homes and lives

Survivors of massive tornado which flattened the town of Moore in Oklahoma have been picking over what's left of their homes to see if anything can be salvaged

With at least 24 dead including 10 children, and more than 240 injured, some seriously, locals have realised just what their priorities are.

"Just a few walls that are on the ground, but we were able to save our family, that's the most important," said Moore resident Justin Stefon.

The town's mayor, Glenn Lewis is one of many showing that the spirit to rebuild rather than to leave the region known as Tornado Ally remains strong. "Where would we go? This is home. Yes, we will build it back, we will probably put safe rooms in all of them to make sure everybody is okay. Everywhere you go there is some kind of disaster but this is home. So we are going to rebuild."

Harrowing tales have emerged of fear as the tornado approached and of how most of the children who died did so from suffocation when the roof of their school



Volunteers form a chain as they retrieve clothing and other household items at a home destroyed by a tornado

collapsed on them.

Experts have said trauma counselling for their surviv-

ing classmates will also be a necessity.

As rescue workers made

their final sweep through the ruins making sure no one was left beneath the de-

bris, others have already begun the next stage of putting Moore back on the map.

EU bank customers to contribute to bail-ins

Bank customers across the European Union are facing the prospect of a Cyprus style bail-in if a financial institution gets into trouble

The EU's Economic Committee has approved a draft law meaning banks needing rescuing could take cash from customer accounts. Larger depositors in Cyprus suffered this very fate during the financial crisis on the island earlier this year. They contributed in total some six billion Euros to the package which bailed out the island. Under the new proposals accounts with less than 100,000 Euros would be secure. But customers could lose some or all of their cash over 100,000 Euros.

The proposal is meant to ensure taxpayers will not have to contribute to banks which are 'too big to fail'. The final decision on the proposal has to be made jointly by the European Parliament and the 27 member states. If they agree, the law comes into force in 2016. Across the EU, a total of 1.7 trillion Euros has been given to banks since the crisis of 2008.

The lessons of tweeting: learning from social media



Social networks used in education

Social media is extremely popular, especially with young people. As a result the education world is exploring how that success can be used in the classroom.

But while students might think it is a good idea, some parents wonder if having fun on Facebook really can teach their children anything useful.

Singapore is an economic leader in South East Asia and one of the world's top 10 competitive economies. Government policy is that education is vital to maintaining that position. To that end, the government is looking at how social media can be used for teaching and learning purposes and it has

invested heavily in overhauling and upgrading its education system, including using the latest technology.

Teachers now use Facebook in their classes to send web links to pupils. Students use Twitter during English lessons to summarise literary passages. In home economics and art classes, teachers and students use picture sharing and infographics sites so everyone can see the same images. Teachers constantly monitor and share feedback on the use of social media and other technology in the classroom to fine tune teaching methods. They say students' grades for project work have improved since the experiment began and the teachers acknowledge

that they too are learning all the time from their pupils.

The questions remains, do teachers really have to use Facebook and Twitter? Why is it so important to get technology into the classroom?

Professor Sreenivasan, who has the title of chief digital officer at Columbia University, says there have not really been many big leaps and innovations in education in the last 200 years: "You could say maybe the dry erase marker and powerpoint are the two latest innovations in education... which is kind of crazy... to think that education should be the only form of human activity that hasn't innovated."

He believes social media will soon be as much a part of schools' routines, as it currently is in people's everyday lives. But parents may share teachers' scepticism on the educational value of social media and worry about safety and privacy issues for young people.

Many parents are concerned about the responsible and appropriate use of social media in the classroom.

E-book fan fiction sales allowed

Amazon has announced that fan fiction authors will be able to sell some of their work on the firm's Kindle e-book platform

Fan fiction is literature inspired by popular books, films and TV shows, written by enthusiasts. Publication outside of blogs and online fanzines is often difficult because of copyright issues.

Authors will be able to upload their writing for sale via a new platform called Kindle Worlds, which will initially only be available in America. There is no launch date yet for the platform.

Authors will receive 35 percent of the overall price of their work in royalty payments if they have written 10,000 words or more,

and 20 percent for works of 5,000-10,000 words under a new pilot scheme for shorter stories.

The *Fifty Shades of Grey* trilogy, which has sold more than 70 million copies worldwide, was originally written by author EL James as fan fiction based on the novels and film franchise *Twilight*, by Stephenie Meyer.

Rubens at the Louvre

A new branch of the famous Parisian art museum, the Louvre, opened earlier this year in the quiet French town of Lens, near the Belgian border

Now the new museum is opening its first international exhibition, The Europe of Rubens, which includes 170 works by the artist, by his models and by some of his contemporaries.

Curator Blaise Ducos said, "Rubens lived in Europe at a time when, as you know, most people were born, lived and died in an area encompassing no more than a few kilometres. But the pieces we are exhibiting here show the exact opposite. They are the work of a well-travelled person. Rubens visited Italy,



The Rubens Room at the Louvre in Paris

Spain, England, and Paris. He worked in Paris, at the Luxembourg Palace. He really had the most extraordinary life experience. In modern terms this makes him a model European. He distinguished himself from his contemporaries, by that

alone."

The exhibition includes paintings, drawings, sculptures and decorative arts. It represents the dynamism of Rubens' inspiration and creative output. The exhibition runs until September 23rd.