



Associated Press photo

A woman checks out suspected tornado damage from Tuesday's storm in Randolph County, Ind., that snapped trees and power lines.

Windstorm howls across Midwest

By Tammy Webber
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO — A massive storm with wind gusts up to 81 mph howled across the nation's mid-section Tuesday, snapping trees and power lines, ripping off roofs, delaying flights and soaking commuters hunched under crumpled umbrellas.

Spanning from the Dakotas to the eastern Great Lakes, the unusual system mesmerized meteorologists because of its size and because it had pressure similar to a Category 3 hurricane, but with much less destructive power.

Scientists said the storm had the force of a blizzard minus the snow.

"If it were colder, we'd have a blizzard with this system," said David Imy, operations chief at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Okla.

But the temperatures were in the 50s and 60s, instead of 20s.

At one point, more than 145,000 homes and businesses were without power in Wisconsin, Indiana, Illinois, Ohio and the St. Louis area.

The storm blew in from the northwest on the strength of a jet stream that is about one-third stronger than normal for this time of year, Imy said.

As the system moved into the nation's heartland, it drew in warm air needed to fuel thunderstorms.

Then the winds intensified and tornadoes formed.

Add to that the fact the storm was moving fast, 50 to 60 mph, and the winds became even stronger, Imy said.

By Tuesday morning, sustained winds were about 35 to 40

mph. A gust of 81 mph was recorded in Butlerville, Ohio, and 80 mph in Greenfield, Ind., according to NOAA.

By late afternoon, the storms were headed toward the East Coast. National Weather Service meteorologist Charles Mott said the winds might weaken.

But a squall line was moving ahead of the storm, causing more tornado warnings, he said.

A tornado touched down in Racine County, Wis., where two people were injured when a section of roof was torn off a tractor factory, and in Van Wert County, Ohio, near the Indiana border, where a barn was flattened and flipped over a tractor-trailer and camper.

A tornado also touched down in Peotone, Ill., where three people were injured when a home's roof came off.

Twisters were also suspected in several other states.

Sheryl Uthemann, 49, was working first shift at the Case New Holland plant in Mount Pleasant, Wis., when the storm blew through about 8 a.m. and started to lift the roof.

"It was just a regular workday and all of a sudden that noise just came and (co-workers) said 'Run! Run! Run!' You didn't have time to think," she said.

"I looked up where the noise was coming from and saw pieces of the roof sucked up. I've never been more scared, ever."

In the Indiana town of Wanatah, about 60 miles southeast of Chicago, a pole barn at a hydraulics company was destroyed, and two homes were severely damaged.

No injuries were reported, however.

Firefighter John Sullivan said he saw a funnel cloud, but it did not touch down.

Greeks, LGBTQA to ally

By Megan Rogers
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Two of the most stereotyped groups on campus — the greek and LGBTQA communities — are increasing their communication this year to strengthen their relationship.

This year, the LGBTQA community is looking to increase communication with the Penn State greek community by offering Straight Talks and an ally training program. LGBTQA Student Resource Center community and outreach intern Elizabeth Nitzberg said.

Straight Talks include panels that are either in both the LGBTQA and greek community or who want to speak on why acceptance is important, she said.

The Greek Ally training program would train an "ally" in each chapter who could be there to talk to any member who has a concern relating to LGBTQA issues, said Julian Haas, Rainbow Roundtable vice president and

Delta Lambda Phi member.

Relations aren't where they need to be, IFC President Max Wendkos said. It's a matter of both parties not understanding the mindset of the other, Wendkos (senior-marketing and psychology) said.

"The LGBTQA community hasn't reached out to greeks because they don't feel like they would be accepted for their lifestyle," Nitzberg (senior-psychology) said.

But steps are being taken to change that, Wendkos said — the IFC hosted the interns at a recent President's Council to speak about the center's programs.

At the president's council, Nitzberg explained the two programs to chapter leaders.

Nitzberg said about 20 fraternities don't have a clause in their constitution saying they can't discriminate because of sexual orientation — meaning that a fraternity could decline a member because of his sexual orientation.

Both parties stressed that the

relationship needs improvement, but is not awful.

Haas said the greek community has been accepting of Delta Lambda Phi, the fraternity for gay, bisexual and progressive men, which was added into the IFC last year. In just a year, Delta Lambda Phi has become the largest chapter of the fraternity in the nation, IFC Executive Vice President Dan Florencio said.

"Things are going in the right direction," Florencio (senior-philosophy) said.

But Haas said he is quick to caution that just because the gay fraternity is in the IFC doesn't mean that homophobia has been eradicated in the IFC.

This semester there have been three Straight Talks for sororities and three individual fraternities requested the program, she said — small numbers, but improvements from last year, when only one fraternity hosted a straight talk.

To e-mail reporter: mer5200@psu.edu

Sestak, Toomey polls show tight race

By Andrew Miga
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHILADELPHIA — With the number of undecided voters dwindling, Republican U.S. Senate candidate Pat Toomey went prospecting for votes in the increasingly conservative Pittsburgh suburbs as Democrat Joe Sestak shook hands in Philadelphia and a string of small cities.

Most polls show a tight race, with some giving a lead to Toomey. The candidates have debated twice, and each accused the other of supporting extreme and reckless policies that resulted in job losses and yawning federal deficits.

Meanwhile, millions of dollars from unions, business organizations and other outside groups are buying fliers, TV commercials and Internet ads to flood Pennsylvania's mailboxes, living rooms and computer screens.

"At the end of the day, it's hard work and perseverance and getting the voters out that really matters," Sestak said in an interview with The Associated Press as he greeted morning commuters and government workers in downtown Philadelphia.

The candidates are vying to replace five-term Sen. Arlen Specter, whom Sestak beat in the Democratic primary.

Toomey, a former three-term congressman from the Allentown

area who more recently led the Washington-based free-market advocacy group the Club for Growth, is being buoyed by voter dissatisfaction with the pace of economic recovery and the policies of Democratic President Barack Obama.

Even though Sestak is not the incumbent, he is a two-term congressman from the Philadelphia suburbs who has supported the new federal health care law and other central planks of Obama's presidency, not to mention the recession-driven bailouts begun by former Republican President George W. Bush.

At a rally in McMurray, about 15 miles south of Pittsburgh, Toomey predicted he would win next Tuesday's election and focused his message to the crowd of a few dozen on economic issues.

One of the listeners, Public Buchanan, bemoaned a government that extends no help to a middle class family hit hard by the recession, like hers, and said it's time for a change.

"I believe that the current administration — they all need to be out," said Buchanan, 47, a Democrat who switched his registration to Republican last year because of her opposition to abortion rights.

Buchanan's engineer husband lost his job in Virginia and the family moved in with her parents when he found one near

Pittsburgh seven months ago.

For Sestak, a big turnout in heavily Democratic Philadelphia will be crucial to mounting a come-from-behind victory after trailing most polls in recent months.

At a luncheon gathering of retirees sponsored by American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees District Council 33, AFSCME International President Gerald McEntee delivered a blunt message to the union crowd.

"You gotta work like hell to get out that vote," said McEntee. "You gotta pray for Joe and then knock on the doors of your neighbors. Make sure they get out to vote and know what the hell is going on."

Sestak urged them to volunteer and pump up support among neighbors, friends and families. He also warned them that Toomey is allied with tea party standard-bearers, including Sarah Palin and Delaware GOP Senate candidate Christine O'Donnell. Sestak also had events scheduled in Lancaster, York and Harrisburg on Tuesday.

At the McMurray rally, one of three he planned Tuesday in suburban Pittsburgh, Toomey painted Sestak as a foot soldier of U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

"Pennsylvania is not going to elect a San Francisco liberal to the U.S. Senate, is it?" Toomey asked.

Any 3 Subs only
\$15.99

Two 18" Extra Large Pizza's
one topping each
\$25.99

Free 2 Liter Soda
with purchase of
24 wings

128 East College Ave.
814-272-0530

Penn State Students:
stay healthy this winter-get immunized!

FLU SHOTS
OCTOBER 28

Make your appointment online at
<http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/health>

Cost is \$20 and may be billed to your student account.

Covered by the Penn State student health insurance plan.

IUP ONLINE WINTER SESSIONS '10 GET AHEAD

ALL WINTER SESSION COURSES ARE OFFERED ONLINE

EARLY REGISTRATION BEGINS OCT. 20

www.iup.edu/online/winter2010
Call 724-357-2217, option 2.

Indiana University of Pennsylvania

HEARTS ON FIRE
THE WORLD'S MOST PERFECTLY CUT DIAMOND

The Hearts On Fire Diamond Engagement Ring set in platinum starting at \$1,950

moyer jewelers
100 East College Avenue, State College, PA
814-237-7942 moyerjewelers.com

View our entire collection at heartsonfire.com

University Health Services:
The student health specialists.

Conveniently located on the University Park campus of Penn State

Valid at 2020 N. ATHERTON ST. & 2605 E. COLLEGE AVE.

FREE CHEESE CURDS w/any purchase

FREE CONEY DOG w/purchase of one (1) coney dog

\$2.22 For TWO (2) HAMBURGERS

Valid at 2020 N. ATHERTON ST. & 2605 E. COLLEGE AVE.