

CLOUDY, WARM

High — 75

Low — 50

(Details on Page 10A)

Times - News

HOME
EDITION

338 Pages

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Sunday, June 2, 1985

205 W. 12th Erie, Pa.

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Tornado Death Toll Reaches 89; 61 Of Them In Pennsylvania

By GEORGE MILLER
and ROY SENECA
Of the Erie Daily Times

The death toll continued to mount Saturday as more victims were found in the aftermath of tornadoes that ripped through the Tri-State area and

Ontario, causing an estimated \$14 million in property damage in Erie County alone.

The total unofficial death count as of Saturday night was 89; 61 of them in Pennsylvania. Damage estimates from all areas hit were expected to

be in the hundreds of millions of dollars. Twelve people were confirmed dead in Erie County.

A state of emergency was declared in a 10-county area of Pennsylvania, including Erie County, and rescue workers continued to sift through the

rubble looking for missing persons.

In Erie County, the death toll remained at 12 Saturday evening. State police at Girard were not aware of any people still missing at that time.

Over 60 people were still hospitalized in the county's hospitals.

Nicholas Sleptzoff, director of the county's Emergency Management program, said 10 people, one in the Cranesville area, had been missing earlier Saturday.

Sleptzoff estimated property damage at \$13.5 million in the Albion-

Cranesville area and another \$500,000 in the Corry area.

The emergency management director, who had toured the areas by helicopter Saturday morning, said 120 homes were destroyed and another

See DEATH TOLL, Page 2A



Christine Luthie sits weeping Saturday, holding one of her daughter's dolls amidst the wreckage of the trailer that had been

her home in Cranesville. Although her home was destroyed, her family survived. (Times News photo)

Thornburgh Pledges Help

By JEFF PINSKI
Morning News Staff Reporter
Gov. Dick Thornburgh — at times appearing near tears after seeing first-hand the destruction in storm-ravaged Albion Saturday afternoon — pledged the "full support" of the Commonwealth to the victims of Pennsylvania's worst tornado disaster.

"The destruction I saw from the air is just unbelievable," he said after his Pennsylvania National Guard helicopter landed near Northwestern Junior High School Saturday afternoon. He earlier made stops in other counties — including Crawford County — where tornado damage was heavy.

"I have an awful feeling of helplessness at seeing the amount of destruction, the horrible devastation. It can't be adequately described or put into words."

The junior high school Thornburgh visited is one of several temporary emergency command posts set up in the Albion-Cranesville area to aid victims after three killer tornadoes cut a path of destruction across three states and the Canadian province of Ontario Friday evening.

The twisters killed more than 80 persons — 12 of them from the Albion-Cranesville area and 61 from

Thornburgh also spoke with White House staff members via a special telephone line from Albion Saturday. He told them his application for emergency federal relief will be at the White House for President Reagan's approval by Sunday morning.

"White House Chief of Staff Don Regan and Mitch Daniels, special assistant to the President for intergovernmental affairs, have assured me the application will get on the fast track," Thornburgh said.

Later Saturday, the governor's press office notified news agencies that Thornburgh sent to President Reagan a letter requesting a "major disaster" be declared for 15 Pennsylvania counties.

"Although damage assessment information has not been completely assembled at this point, data thus far compiled establishes that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the state and the affected local governments, and that supplementary federal assistance is necessary," the letter says.

Federal relief means homeowners, many of them under-insured and some without insurance at all, qualify for emergency, low-interest loans or

The Scene Was Unbelievable

By PAT HOWARD
Of the Erie Daily Times

Christine Luthie, clutching a soiled broken doll, sits weeping on a long shard of sheet metal.

The metal rests on splintered wood and porcelain and glass that only hours before was her family's home. She has less reason to weep than some. Her family is safe. But she's

been through too much.

Christine can only talk in fits and starts, but her father, Bill Bolte, rattles off her story anxiously as if telling it will make him accept, believe. He shifts nervously from one muddy work boot to the other as he speaks, occasionally touching the shoulder of his listener.

Christine and her 18-month-old

daughter were in their mobile home at Kennedy's Trailer Park in Cranesville when Christine heard the twister coming.

"She grabbed her baby and ran across here for the woods," Bolte says, pointing toward the ridge where her home had rested. "Finally the stuff falling out of the air knocked her down. And then it was gone. All

that's left of where her trailer sat is a pair of steps," he says, absently kicking at the wreckage. "It used to be up on that ridge. This here house is 150 feet away from where it sat."

Bolte walks back toward the trees that had sheltered his daughter. His own trailer lies beyond the trees farther up the ridge. He stares into the trees for a moment, then turns again

See SCENE, Page 3A

Erieites Open Their Hearts In Relief Effort

By JERRY TRAMBLEY
Times-News Staff Writer

The people of Erie County and the surrounding area opened their homes, their hearts, their pocketbooks, their closets and just about everything they had Saturday to help the victims of the tornadoes that left a dozen dead and hundreds injured and homeless in western and southern Erie County Friday.

The phone lines at the Times Publishing Company's Tornado Relief Central opened at 7 a.m. Saturday and the earliest phone volunteers, Cindee Behrendt, Bonnie Santos, Charlotte Yonosko and Lili Pintea, said those phones started ringing immediately.

As a result of the massive one-day effort, the Times tornado relief effort was suspended Saturday night until emergency agencies indicate further need for clothing and food, said

Frank Mead, Times Publishing Company treasurer and business manager.

By Saturday afternoon, the phones were still ringing as people called in to offer rooms in their homes for victims or said they had a vacant apartment or flat or even a camper they weren't using that victims from Albion or Cranesville were welcome to use while they needed it.

Even as volunteers were taking down the names and addresses of those who offered homes for the homeless, hundreds of donors were lining up along West 12th and along Sassafra to drop off food, clothing, toys and money for the use of tornado victims.

By noon Saturday, the Salvation Army had already loaded three 18-foot vans with mattresses, bedding, shoes and assorted clothes for transfer to the west county and the three

truckloads did not even seem to make a dent in the piles of donated items that filled an area of the parking lot about 80 feet long and 80 feet wide.

The depth of the tragedy could, perhaps, be measured in some way by the outpouring of generosity. People were touched by the terrible scenes of destruction they saw on television and in the newspaper and they wanted to help.

They came to the Times building Saturday and they called the Red Cross and other relief agencies and they brought money, clothes, food and whatever else they thought could do some good for their neighbors whose homes had been destroyed by the storm.

"This is really the silver lining, so to speak, in the tragedy," said Dr. William Kowalski, a clinical psychologist with a background in disasters and crisis situations. "A lot of people want to do good and most of us don't have the chance to do anything that is this major."

He said that for various reasons people are touched by such tragedy, especially so close to home, and they want to help their fellow man.

"We have all been victimized because it's so close to us. But we don't have a hospital to go to because nobody in our immediate family has

been injured and we don't have fire engines to call because our house didn't burn down, but we still have a need for immediate action," Kowalski said. "When we have strong emotions, we need to take action and if we don't take action, we're going to feel unfinished."

Within a few hours Saturday morning, there was more than \$1,500 in cash and checks donated by those who wanted to help. Red cross staffer Betty Rectenwald said the gifts ranged from a check for \$250 to a couple of rolls of pennies brought in by some youngsters who thought the victims needed the pennies more than they did. She also said Red Cross workers were stationed at the Chapter House on West 6th and donations were pouring in there, as well.

As people drove into the Times parking lot to drop off the clothes and

See RELIEF EFFORT, Page 13A

11 SUPPLEMENTS

Special sections from JCPenney's, Eckerd's, Kmart, Sherwin Williams, Sears, Thrift Drug, Horne's Super Duper, Children's Palace, Peoples Drug and Loblaws are included in today's Times-News. If any are missing, please call your carrier or Circulation Customer Service at 453-4691.

Pennsylvania Deaths

Following is a list of the known dead from Pennsylvania, with nearby counties listed first. The information on deaths for Forest and McKean counties was released by state police from the Punxsutawney barracks. Phone communications to state police stations in Tionesta and Kane remain out of service.

ERIE: Lydia Taylor, age unknown, RD 1, Albion; Jodi Lynn Snyder, 24, of Cranesville; Stanley Kireta, age unknown, and Frances Kireta, age unknown, both of 23 South Water St., Albion; Luke Stahlsmith, 4, 219 East Pearl, Albion; Norman Elliot, age unknown, of Cranesville; Bill Revak, 64, RD 2, West Road, Albion; Lena Keith, age unknown, 93 South Main, Albion; Ralph Hecker, 36, of Cranesville; Debra Sherman, 24, RD 1, Knapp Road, Albion; Helen Sabovik, age unknown, 53 Walnut St., Albion; and Marie Eagley, age unknown, 57 Walnut, Albion.

CRAWFORD: Iris Motzing, 73, John William Moore, 41, and Alfred Longo Sr. 74, all of the RD 2, Cochran area; Ruth Allen, 74, of Linesville; in Atlantic, Cindy Lou Godwin, 23, Andrew Byler, 77, Frank Talbot, 81, his wife, Wanda May Talbot, 81, and Darla Ann Rigby, 24; in Center-ville, Steven Petrisko, 62, and Oscar Gray, no age given.

VENANGO COUNTY: Charles R. Best, 47, Judy Best, 36, Brock Best, 15, all of RD 1, Cooperstown; Phyllis Deeter, 68, RD 1, Utica; Paul J. Bergin, 13, RD 3, Franklin; Beverly Westfall, 28, Cherrytree; and Pamela Westfall, 10 months, Cherrytree.

MERCER COUNTY: Marion Barnes, 65, Mercer; Michael Kurpe, 36,

See PA. DEATHS, Page 2A

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| Editorials | 2B | Nitewatchman | .12D |
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Deaths

COFFMAN, Eugene F.
FARVER, H. P. (Park)
HAAG, Edward
HANCOCK, John T., Sr.
HECKER, Ralph E.
HERRMANN, Raymond F.
KRIETA, Stanley J.
MANGONI, Emelio D.
McCARTY, Anne N.
NILAND, James J.

PACHELL, Julia Elizabeth (Allen)
REVAK, William R.
RIEFSTAHL, James M.
SABOVIK, Helen
SHERMAN, Debra Jane
SNYDER, Jodi (Terrill)
STEADMAN, Rachel (Williams)
TAYLOR, Lydia M. (Snyder)
WALLING, William L.

(Death Notices on Pages 3-4E)

Food, Clothing No Longer Accepted

Due to the overwhelming response Saturday, Tornado Relief Central at the Times Publishing Co. will no longer accept food and clothing. However, calls of assistance for housing and information will be accepted Sunday from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. at 456-8531.

Relief officials announced that the Albion and Cranesville areas have been saturated with food and clothing.

The project's resumption with respect to food and clothing will be announced at a later date.

DEATH TOLL

(Continued from Page 1A)

er 114 were damaged as well as businesses and other structures in the county.

The Albion area, hardest hit by the tornadoes, was sealed off and guarded by about 125 members of the National Guard, who were called in Friday night after County Executive Judy Lynch and County Council members Robert Walkow and Tracy Seyfert surveyed the damage.

The area was opened to Albion residents for a couple of hours Saturday and then sealed off again as evening approached, state police said.

Sleptzoff estimated 250 volunteers were involved in rescue and clean-up efforts.

He said it wouldn't be unrealistic to estimate that 300 to 400 families were left without homes.

Pennsylvania Electric Co. spokesman John Pelensky reported that about 9,700 customers in the utility's Northwestern Division, primarily in the Albion, Cranesville and Platea areas, were without electricity immediately after the storm.

By 6:50 p.m. Friday, he said, all but 2,550 were back in service that could receive service. All but 100 were restored Saturday afternoon and these were to have service within two hours.

In the Erie area, only scattered outages were reported, and all customers were back in service by 11 p.m., Pelensky said.

Every available Penelec person was called into work and spent the night in the effort to restore service, he said.

In the Albion area, he said, "We just started over from scratch in that particular area."

Meanwhile, in the Corry, Union City, Centerville and Wattsburg areas, about 500 homes were reported without electricity, but service to most was restored in a short time, said Jerry Clayton, Penelec spokesman there.

He said about 12 homes in the Centerville area were still without power Saturday evening.

He thanked the police, volunteer firefighters and National Guard, especially in controlling traffic.

At times, he said, sightseers hindered repair efforts. "We had so many sightseers it was like the New York Thruway," he said.

Thomas Bachler, director of emergency services for the Erie Chapter of the Red Cross, said the relief effort will be taken over by higher-ranking Red Cross officials because of the magnitude of the problems.

He said a team headed by James

he said. "It means a lot more money, a lot more assistance."

He said relief efforts will be directed from the Eastern operations office in Alexandria, Va.

Meanwhile, Bachler reported about 400 people were at the Albion emergency center, located in the Northwestern Middle School gym, at various times, but only nine stayed the night. Others stayed with friends and relatives.

"That's one thing about a small town," said Albion council president George Dahlin. "There is always enough friends and relatives in town who can take people in who lost their homes."

Bachler said said two other centers, one in Cranesville and the other at Tech Memorial High School in Erie, were open, but were little used.

He said seven homes in the Union City-Wattsburg area were also damaged, but the tornado skipped the Edinboro and Waterford areas.

Dahlin said Saturday that it was too early to think about rebuilding yet. "Right now all we're dealing with is a crisis," he said. "If we can get the streets cleaned up and the sidewalks cleared, then escorts will be able to let people back to their homes to see what they can find."

Dahlin said there was not a single confirmed report of looting in Albion.

The Northwestern School District will be closed Monday and Superintendent Andrew Hills said he will ask the state Department of Education to keep school closed all week.

Baccalaureate ceremonies scheduled Monday have been canceled.

The Red Cross has been using the middle school gym as a disaster center and the National Guard is being housed in the high school gym.

"I think it's our obligation to help and do all we can," Hills said.

Meanwhile, in Cranesville, fire chief Frosty Crane said the last victims were pulled from a trailer just after 9 p.m. Friday and that he did not believe any persons were still missing.

"We searched and searched and researched and from the information we gathered, everybody who was supposed to be there is accounted for," he said.

Volunteers were also sent door-to-door in Cranesville notifying residents about possible water contamination. Residents in the Cranesville-Albion area were asked to boil their drinking water.

Meanwhile, McKean residents reported finding debris in their neighborhood from Albion.

Hospital officials said there were many tragic stories coming from tor-

PA. DEATHS

(Continued from Page 1A)

Sharon.; Stanley David Kostka, 36, Farrell.; Gladys Jackson, 72, Wheatland.; Adam Laverty, 6, Farrell.; Robert Reynolds, 31, Wheatland.; Rose Marie Leone, 75, Masury, Ohio.

FOREST COUNTY: Nancy Confer, 43, Star Route, RD 2, Tionesta; Luella Zundel, 80, Star Route, RD 2, Tionesta; Glen Shaffer, 70s (specific age unknown), RD 2, Tionesta; Violet Shaffer, 70s (specific age unknown), RD 2, Tionesta; Blanche Weingrade, 80, RD 1, Tionesta; Etta Berlin, 50, RD 2, Tionesta; Esther Rupert, 80, of Sheffield, Pa., who was staying in the Tionesta area.

McKEAN COUNTY: Travis Johnson, 17, RD 1, Kane; Robert Thrush, age unknown, East Kane; and Dawn Ardadel, 17, East Kane.

At least five Pennsylvanians were killed in Ohio. See listing, Page 10A.

BEAVER COUNTY: Gladys Brenson, 67, Beaver Falls; Diana Lynn Flinner, 29, Ellipton; Carl Moschetti, 67, Economy.

BUTLER COUNTY: Dennis John Armstrong, 13 months, Saxonburg;

Sherri Durci, 19, Butler Township; Edward John Fink, 64, Evans City; Lorraine C. Fink, 51, Evans City; John Charles Bugus, 45, Saxonburg; Karen Bogus, 45, Saxonburg.

LYCOMING COUNTY: Lillian Kathryn Mae Koser, 86, Elmsport; Thelma Taylor, 69, Elmsport.

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY: Donna Fenstermacher, 12, Watson town; Mildred Bieber, 78, Watson town.

UNION COUNTY: Kelly Auker, 11, R.D., Allenwood
(See list of injured on Page 3E)

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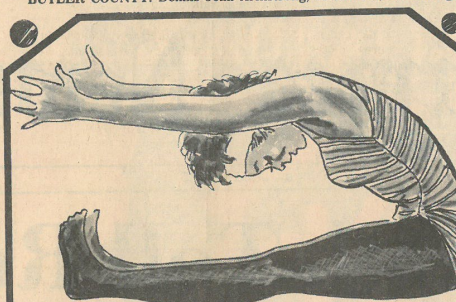
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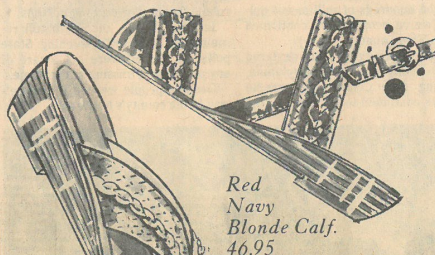
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OTHER DAYS 10:5-30

J.L. Cox
9th & Peach

THE SCENE WAS UNBELIEVABLE

(Continued from Page 1A)
to face the mud and ruin.

"The first thing she saw when she came out of those woods was a dead boy with no arm," he continues. "She said she didn't know his arm was off and she reached down to touch him and ask him if he was all right. But he was dead. That's why she's so broke up. How much can you take?"

He presses his lips hard together and shakes his head as he pulls his son-in-law's hunting rifle from the wreckage.

"Hey, Scott! Here's your rifle," he yells across the field to Scott Luthie, his daughter's husband. "How 'bout that," Luthie shouts back. After handing over the rifle, Bolte turns again toward his listener.

"It's unreal. It's unreal. But we're living. A lot of folks weren't as lucky as us."

Saturday it does seem unreal. On Route 18 heading towards Cranesville, the sky is clear, the sun is shining and all seems right with the world. The forest lining the road is thick and lush, as if it hasn't been disturbed in 50 years. But just around the corner, as if God closed his eyes and pointed his finger arbitrarily at a map, the countryside has been turned upside down.

Huge trees, hit so suddenly by a force so awesome, have been snapped in half, leaving their roots in the ground. The towns look like bombed-out villages in World War II Germany, except there are no craters, no fires. Some homes are shattered as if explosives have been detonated from within. Others just lean and creak and might simply seem neglected if it wasn't for the destruction all around and if one didn't know they had been solid, well-kept homes only the eve-

ning before.

The sunny, clear morning skies seem a malicious afterthought of nature, a malevolent grin after the terrible scowl. They make everything too clear, too real. The pleasant breeze contrasts sharply with the dark, tormented emotions of people whose homes have been wiped from the face of the earth; of people who are trying to survive the worst day of their lives.

By early morning the National Guard has arrived in Albion, stringing barbed wire across the entrances to town to discourage looters and sightseers. The guardsmen, many of whom seem like kids, patrol the streets with large wooden nightsticks. Some act more like tourists than soldiers, brandishing cameras, taking picture after picture while their jaws hang slack with wonder at the destruction.

Robert Pavolko's Sunoco service station on East State is gutted, the pumps crushed. Ironically a sign on the wall reads: "Rest Rooms Out Of Order." The Albion Family Practice medical building is in similar condition. Back issues of popular magazines — *Newsweek*, *Highlights for Children* — litter the floor of what was the waiting room. A cleanup volunteer shuffling through the debris, head down, suddenly stops and reaches down slowly with his right hand. He picks up a copy of the *Bible*, blows dust from its cover then wipes it off with his hands.

"Here's the good news," he says dolefully.

At the St. Lawrence Catholic Church on East State, the roof over the foyer is gone. Inside, underneath a jagged hole in the polished wooden roof, a statue of the Virgin Mary

stands in a ray of sunshine, undamaged. While roofing materials are scattered about the base of the statue, the flowers surrounding it and the light curtain behind it seem fresh, clean, untouched.

In the foyer, canned and boxed foodstuffs are mixed with roofing shingles and plaster dust in a white barrel. On the outside of the barrel is a plea to parishioners for contributions to the needy.

"We won't have to look far now, will we?" a parishioner says, chuckling humorously.

At many of the homes, family members spend the day picking odds and ends — pictures, clothing — from the wreckage. Others homes are deserted with tattered curtains fluttering through black, hollow window openings.

In the area of the worst damage in Albion, between State and Pearl streets, a passerby stops and twirls slowly around.

"It looks like Mannheim," he says, remembering his days as a young man in conquered, devastated Germany. "It looks just like Mannheim." In Atlantic, a small town south of Conneaut Lake near the Crawford/Mercer county border, the damage is no worse but is more striking.

The town is gone. The Atlantic Congregational Church is the only building not damaged beyond repair. What is left of the town sits on a rise overlooking a shallow valley. A swath of devastation over 200 yards wide can be clearly seen stretching across the valley.

What was a trailer park just west of town is now a junkyard. People died there. And those remaining just poke through the rubble, knowing there's nothing worth saving. Huge

pieces of the mobile homes hang in the tree branches across the road, over 50 yards north of the trailer court.

A thirtyish man, dressed in sport shirt and new jeans, walks slowly along the road staring at where the trailer park had been. In a low voice, apparently for the lack of anything else to say, he asks the obvious.

"What in the hell happened here?"

What's left, of course, is people.

A steady stream of Albion residents walk along the south curb of State Street, slowly surveying what yesterday was their town. Many stare numbly, sometimes stumbling over debris in the street. One woman walks with her hand clamped to her mouth as if to prevent herself from retching.

They stop at individual homes, looking for clues to the fates of friends or relatives. Some homes have signs in the windows — "Steve, The Smiths Are All Right," "People Got Out" — others are dark and silent.

Groups form sporadically in the streets, asking the same questions: "Did you here about John?" "Where were you when it hit?" "Has anybody seen my cousin...?"

But they already begin to come to grips with the fact that what couldn't happen to them has happened to them. And they begin to lose themselves in doing something, anything, to take the first step on the road back from disaster.

And what they're facing was succinctly summarized by Bill Bolte as he walked away after he told his family's story.

"Excuse me, I've got a lot of work to do."

BE SUMMER SMART!

June 10 to July 12

| | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Financial Accounting | 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. M-Th | Fund. of Management | 6:00 - 10:00 p.m. M & W |
| Color and Design | 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. M-Th | Word Processing | 6:00 - 10:00 p.m. T & Th |
| Arts and Crafts | 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. M-Th | Physical Sci. I (Chem) | 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. M-Th |
| Computer Info. Process | 8:00 - 11:00 a.m. M-Th | Psych. of Adjustment | 11:30 - 1:30 a.m. M-Th |
| RPG | 6:00 - 10:00 p.m. M & W | Developmental Psych. | 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. M-Th |
| English Composition | 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. M-Th | Fund. of Speech | 11:30 - 1:30 p.m. M-Th |
| Composition & Literature | 11:30 - 1:30 p.m. M-Th | Interpersonal Comm. | 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. M-Th |
| Practical math | 11:30 - 1:30 p.m. M-Th | Prin. of Sociology | 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. M-Th |
| Statistics | 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. M-Th | Social Problems | 11:30 - 1:30 p.m. M-Th |
| Intro. to Business | 6:00 - 10:00 p.m. T & Th | Enrichment Institute (grades 2-9) | August 5-16 |
| Volleyball Camp | August 5-9 | | |

Register on June 10th (9 a.m. - 8 p.m.)

VENANGO CAMPUS

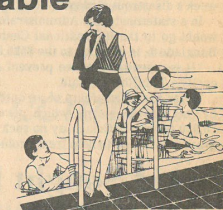
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CATCH THE SAVINGS

RELIEF EFFORT

(Continued from Page 1A)

other items they wanted to donate, many decided to stay around and asked those who were working if they needed help.

Those instant volunteers were called upon to help direct traffic and help load the trucks and vans.

The boxes and plastic bags stuffed with clothing contained all kinds of usable clothes for people of all ages and sizes. There were piles of shirts and skirts and pants and blouses, lots of stuff for youngsters to wear and a good supply of warm coats and relatively heavy clothing for the cool nights. There were flannel nightgowns and pajamas and there was even one box of bras, an item that

many people said they would never have thought of donating, but which just about everybody agreed would certainly be needed.

Captain Thomas Dingman of the Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Center was supervising the loading of his trucks at the Times. He said Captain Leroy Lyle of Erie and Major Kenneth Reeves of Corry were at Northwestern Middle School in Albion, with volunteers who were helping separate the clothing into men's, women's and children's and sorting it for size. He said it would be helpful if donors would bring separate packages of men's, women's and children's clothing. It would save the volunteers a lot of time and get the

clothing to the people who need it a little more quickly.

Out at Hammermill Paper Company, Robert Woolery arranged for drivers Bill Adams, Bill Adams Jr., and Bob Southard to bring their semis into the Times to be loaded with clothes and food and toys, and deliver them to the Albion area.

B.J. and Barbara Lechner of Lyons Transportation Lines Inc. donated four semi-trucks to help with the delivery and personally helped load the semis. In another gesture of compassion, an employee of R.W. King Roofing Co. contacted the firm's owner and asked if he and his wife could deliver a flatbed trailer of goods to the disaster area. According to Mead, the firm's employee was anxious to assist since he personally had been involved in a disaster as a child.

Five Times Publishing Co. trucks and about 10 private pickup trucks also were enlisted in duty, said Dick Baer, Times Publishing Co. superintendent of maintenance.

Truckloads of goods were sent to the Cranesville fire hall, Northwestern Junior High School in Albion, Corry Chapter of the Red Cross, and Cooperstown Elementary School in Franklin, among others, Baer said.

There were scores of Times employees, from all departments, in the parking lot from early Saturday morning to help with the logistics of moving the tons of donations from the pavement to the trucks to the people who could use the clothes and

food. Times printers who were on the job to get today's Times-News to our readers, spent their lunch hour in the parking lot doing whatever was needed to keep the donations moving.

Workers from Car-Paul Locksmiths were loading three of their vans to take clothing to Albion and as they were taking clothes away, one older woman walked into the parking lot, pushing a wheeled cart that she probably uses to bring groceries home in. This time, however, she was bringing clothes for people who were needed.

McDonald's Restaurants of Erie sent food and soft drinks to help keep the spirits and the energy of the volunteers at a high level for their work.

And those are just the people and companies it was easy to identify. Most of the helpers and the donors were people whose names nobody will ever know.

Their only reward will be the satisfaction of helping and knowing that somebody in trouble will be a little better off because they took time from their own weekend to give a little help.

The most common word used to describe the piles of donated items in the Times parking lot and the generosity of the people of Erie County was "Fantastic!"

Checks may be made out to the American Red Cross and either brought to the Times or sent directly to the Erie Chapter of the American Red Cross, 150 W. 6th, Erie, Pa., 16501.

The Numbers

OHIO

CLEVELAND (AP) — The winning number drawn Saturday night in the Ohio Lottery's daily game, "The Number," was 919.

In the semiweekly "Ohio Lotto" drawing, the six winning numbers were 3, 4, 16, 24, 28 and 30.

NEW YORK

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — The winning number picked Saturday in New York's Daily Number lottery game was 5-0-9. The "WinFour" number was 9-6-4-0.

PENNA. DAILY NUMBER
DAILY NUMBER 747
BIG FOUR 8090
ON SALE AT
AL DELUCA VARIETY STORE
5TH AT STATE • OPEN 7 A.M. - 8 P.M.

waterfall
RESTAURANT
worth the drive
OPEN SUNDAY AT 3 P.M.
PRIME RIB
\$4.95

quate water supplies and sewage services.

"We will begin immediately to provide for the peoples' needs. We can't bring back the loss of life, and that's the most tragic aspect of this disaster," Thornburgh said, appearing to blink back tears.

Appearing with Thornburgh was Col. John Patten, executive director of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, who Thornburgh named "point man" to coordinate all relief activities.

Thornburgh, accompanied by members of Charlie and Headquarters Companies of the Pennsylvania National Guard at Erie, motored through the area of destruction estimated to be a mile long and a half mile wide.

Everywhere he saw people trying to dig through the rubble of what had once been their homes or businesses for cherished possessions.

Several times, he ordered the motorcade to stop so he could meet with victims of the natural disaster.

Often, he shook his head in disbelief at the damage — now estimated by county officials to be in excess of \$13.5 million in Albion alone.

"I wish there was something I could say or do," he told Alice Valentine outside her shattered home at Pearl and Thornton streets. "But I promise you help is on the way."

Valentine, overwhelmed at the appearance of the governor in her lawn among the rubble, said, "Oh, my God."

She told Thornburgh the residence had been a three-bedroom home and that her family had escaped the twister by fleeing to the basement.

"You just can't describe devastation like this," Thornburgh told an aid. "It's unimaginable."

THORNBURGH

(Continued from Page 1A)

could provide funds to repair public facilities, such as fire halls and damaged sewer systems.

Accompanied by his wife, Ginny, the governor addressed a small gathering of Erie County officials, tornado victims and local and national news reporters in the auditorium of the school.

"This is Pennsylvania's worst tornado disaster and we're going to bring to bear the full support of the state government and request immediate emergency disaster relief from the federal government."

Erie County Executive Judy Lynch, County Councilwoman Tracy Seyfert, and Albion Mayor Bonda Dahlin quizzed Thornburgh on the timetable for aid, stressing the urgency for immediate state and federal aid to communities and individuals.

"We need help right now," Seyfert later said. Her county council district encompasses the stricken area.

Seyfert and Lynch, who toured the devastation both Friday and Saturday, said they were satisfied that Thornburgh appears to be doing everything within his power as governor to bring quick assistance to the storm-ravished communities.

But Mayor Dahlin, who has ordered a nightly curfew in Albion to prevent looting, said, "I'll wait and see what happens first. Twelve people — one fourth of the total number killed — are from this area."

Dahlin said the disaster touched each of the tiny community's 1,800 residents in some way.

"Everyone knows someone who lost a family member, someone injured, someone wiped out. Nobody really escaped the pain."

Earlier Saturday, Lynch and County Council met in emergency session to urge Thornburgh to seek federal disaster aid.

Eastside Family Y.M.C.A.

Summer Infant & Pre-school Programs (Registration Necessary)



SPLASHERS (Ages 3-6)

Objective Program Focuses on Water Acquaintance and Basic Skill Development
Classes held in the Outdoor Pool

Sessions: June 17 - June 28 July 8 - July 19

July 29 - Aug. 9

2 Weeks: Mon., Tues., Thurs. & Fri.

11:00 a.m. or 11:30 a.m. FEE \$14.00 Members \$27.00 Non-Members

BABY AQUATICS (Ages 6 mo. to 2½ yrs.)

Objective Water Acquaintance-Parent or other Legally Responsible Adult must Accompany Child in Water

Classes held in the Outdoor Pool

Sessions: June 17 - June 28 July 8 - July 19 July 29 - Aug. 9

2 Weeks: Mon., Tues., Thurs. & Fri. 10:30 a.m.

FEE \$14.00 Members \$27.00 Non-Members

CAMP SESSIONS (2 Weeks)

June 17 - June 28

July 29 - Aug. 9

July 8 - July 19

KINDER KAMP (Ages 3-6)

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday

FEE 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

\$30.00 Members/Session

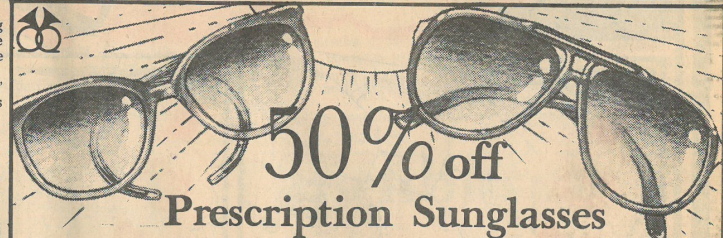
\$45.00 Non-Members/Sessions

50% Off 2nd Child

Plus \$10.00 off if you sign-up for more than 1 Session

ACTIVITIES

Crafts • Gymnastics
Swim Lessons • Cooking
Games • Songs
Special Events



If you already own a pair now's the time to buy a second. If you don't, then find out what a joy prescription sunglasses can be for driving, the pool or beach or any outdoor activity. (And you'll finally be able to hide from all those fans who've been hounding you!) We have a wide variety of frames to

choose from including updated and traditional styles for men, women and children. Sale includes frames and lenses.

Eye examinations by Doctors of Optometry are available for \$25

Also on sale:

Nonprescription sunglasses at 25% off

Millcreek Mall, 868-5315, ext. 224



GOVERNOR COMFORTS TORNADO VICTIMS

Gov. Dick Thornburgh (center) tries to comfort Mrs. Floyd (Alice) Valentine (white hair) Saturday afternoon in Albion. Valentine's home at Pearl and Thornton Streets was one of more

than 100 destroyed when a killer tornado ripped through this southwestern Erie County community of 1,800 Friday afternoon. (See related story Page 1A. Photo by Dan Pintea.)

Eleven Dead In Crawford County

By PAUL GILKES
Times-News Meadville Bureau
MEADVILLE -- Residents in areas of Crawford County hit by Friday's tornadoes began picking up the pieces of their lives and what's left of their homes and belongings Saturday as county emergency management officials awaited word from state and federal officials on declaring the county a disaster area.

The tornadoes killed 11 people, sent another 112 people to Meadville, Spencer and Greenville hospitals, and left thousands homeless. Damages were being assessed in the millions of dollars.

Crawford County Fire Control reported tornadoes touched down in Linesville, Atlantic in East Fallowfield Township, Adamsville in West Shenango Township, all in the west county; Cochran and Greenwood Township in the south, and Centerville in the east and Woodcock Township and Cambridge Springs to the north.

One woman was killed in Linesville when she was crushed beneath a travel-trailer at Pymatuning State Park. Three persons were killed near Cochran, two in Centerville, and five in Atlantic, a village 12 miles southwest of Meadville inhabited largely by Amish families.

The tornadoes cut a path of devastation more than a half-mile wide from Adamsville, a mile away, as it made its way through Atlantic, picking up and touching down across the county. Residents near Cochran reported hail the size of softballs accompanied the heavy rains and high winds.

Those affected sifted through the

rubble, looking for snapshots, a piece of clothing, any personal items they could find. Some did find belongings, in many cases, carried hundreds of feet from their homes.

Terry Thomas, county emergency management director, said information provided by the National Weather Service indicated the county was struck by two separate tornadoes. He said they struck so quickly that residents had little time to run for safety.

"The National Weather Service issued a tornado warning at 5 p.m., and at 5:05 p.m., it struck," he said. "There were multiple touchdowns, at least eight to 10. It just happened so fast."

Thomas said state and federal emergency management officials would be in the county Sunday to assess the damage and make arrangements for emergency relief.

An aerial assessment of damage was made by county officials Saturday.

Aerial and ground searches were made Saturday to look for any missing persons, but all residents had been accounted for, Thomas said. Emergency efforts were being directed from the Atlantic Congregational Church, the only structure in the community left standing.

The Meadville contingent of the Pennsylvania National Guard was brought in to help in salvage operations, keep curiosity-seekers out and prevent looting. Lt. Mark Banta of the guard unit there was some problem with looting.

John Keliher, county PennDOT superintendent, said PennDOT crews were working around the county, removing trees and debris to clear

blocked roads. He said the maintenance garage in Centerville was destroyed, causing \$300,000 damage.

Houses, trailers and automobiles in the affected areas were tossed about like tinkler toys and trees and utility poles were splintered like toothpicks.

Crews from AT & T were in Atlantic Saturday replacing a 312-foot microwave tower for long-distance phone service that was toppled in the tornadoes. Service was re-routed and restored within three hours of the tornado hitting.

In Atlantic, an 81-year-old Amish man, Ben Weaver, was in the basement of his home with his daughter when the tornado hit.

"I saw it was dark but didn't pay much attention until it was on us," he said. "There wasn't much time to do anything." When the tornado passed, the home had been pulled off the foundation and smashed. All of the buildings on the farm Weaver has had since 1965 were destroyed. He said despite the fact that he and other Amish don't have insurance, he and other Amish who lost their homes in the tornado will rebuild.

Patty Ball was in her Atlantic home when she looked out the window and saw the black funnel cloud approaching. She grabbed her two children, and they, and a neighbor and his girlfriend headed for the cellar, with not enough time to close the cellar door. Her husband, George, was at a store in nearby Jamestown when the tornado hit.

Ball said debris was flying everywhere and dropping around them as her 13-room farmhouse was reduced to shambles. The second floor of the

house was picked up and carried away.

"They say you usually hear something but it was quiet until it hit," she said.

She said the home and its contents were not insured, because the insurance company, which she would not name, returned her premium check a month ago because the payment was two days late. She said an agent from another insurance company was scheduled to come to the house Saturday to provide insurance coverage for the home they no longer have.

Greenville Fire Chief Hugh Shields, who lives in Atlantic, was getting ready to leave for work when the tornado hit.

"I started to get in my car when I saw it coming, and laid down on the ground," said Shields, who suffered a gash in his left arm from a piece of flying wood. "It picked me up and put me back down." Only the first floor of Shields' home was left standing.

Pymatuning State Park superintendent Bud Hetrick said facilities at Linesville will be closed indefinitely until repairs can be made. He said damage at Linesville is in the thousands of dollars, and he had not had a chance to assess the damage done around park headquarters near Jamestown.

He said boats were on the lake during the tornado, but there was no official report of anyone missing.

Meadville Junior High School and St. Brigid's Roman Catholic Church in Meadville, as well as churches and community centers in the affected areas, were serving as temporary shelters for the homeless.

Venango Damage \$5.5

By JOHN BARTLETT
Times-News Tri-City Bureau

And
By JIM CARROLL
Times-News Tri-City Bureau

FRANKLIN -- Damages in Venango County communities hit by tornadoes Friday are expected to be \$5.5 million, while the death toll remained at seven Venango County residents and climbed to seven in neighboring Forest County. (See Related Story.)

Preliminary estimates of damage by Venango County emergency management officials included \$1,650,000 in Canal Township, \$600,000 in Claytree Township, one million in Jackson Township, two million in Oak Township, and \$243,000 in Scrubgrass Township.

"That totals \$5.5 million. It's closest we can get right now," said John Woloszyn of the county emergency management agency. "Actually we expect it to be more than that. Those are only preliminary estimates. When actual figures come in they have been higher estimates, so it will probably be more than \$5.5 million."

Tim Dunkle, EMA director, said at least 60 residences were destroyed and dozens of others heavily damaged.

The preliminary damage assessment came as county officials residents began to take stock following the tornadoes that swept through the county shortly after 6 p.m. Saturday.

Continuing shock and trauma tempered by a sense of relief over the overwhelming emotions pressed in Venango County Saturday.

"It's a hell of a mess; it's heartbreaking," said Oscar Bodat, chairman of the Venango County Commissioners. "The volunteers, police, National Guard and every have done a marvelous job, just unbelievable."

County commissioners have cleared the county a disaster area. The hardest hit areas in Venango County were the Village of Claytree near the intersection of Routes 8 and Route 417 in northeastern Venango County, and the Coop town-Bradleytown area in northern Venango County. Lt. Gov. William Scranton toured those areas p.m. Saturday.

Although passable, several highways in Venango County were closed by officials, including Route 417 at Kaneville, Route 417 between Cherrytree and Dempseytown, Route 428 north of Cooperstown.

The American Red Cross is coordinating aid efforts out of the Franklin office at 1238 Elk St. The phone number is 432-5410.

Only one emergency shelter remains open, that at the Rocky G Fire Hall. Four others that opened immediately after the disaster on Saturday as the homeless were to find shelter with friends and relatives.

No one was allowed into the hit areas Saturday except emergency personnel, property owners and residents. Property owners were required to obtain permits to enter the areas at the Venango County Tax Claims office in county courthouse. Each house was issued only one permit, and allowed to take only one vehicle the areas.

Dunkle said the devastated areas would remain closed to all but residents at least through this month and possibly longer.

Friday night, "chaos" was the word Cooperstown Fire Chief J. Boughner Sr. could find to describe the situation. The tornado struck numerous times in that area, first in Cooperstown along Lake Road

MOST RURAL OF PENNSYLVANIA'S COUNTIES

Forest County Still Assessing Damages

By JOHN BARTLETT
Times-News Tri-City Bureau
TIONESTA -- Nearly 24 hours after the tornadoes struck, officials were still trying to evaluate the full extent of damage in Forest County, the most rural of Pennsylvania's counties, and McKean County.

There are seven known dead from Forest County, but little other information could be obtained, and three dead in McKean County.

Forest County is nearly completely cut off from the outside world. There is no telephone service, the Tionesta Fire Department lost its radio tower

"You can see the fear in their eyes," Peterson said, "it's much worse for them. They have no communications, they don't know what the status of anything is. They don't know about their friends and relatives. They are overwhelmed."

Peterson confirmed that by mid-afternoon Saturday, areas of Forest County, notably the Ross Run area, had not been reached by rescuers.

Peterson said he thought it might be a week or longer before electricity and phone service could be restored to wide areas of Forest County. "There are no wires left, no poles left.

Friday from Tionesta through Forest, McKean and Warren counties to Kane.

"There is just total devastation. You can easily follow the path of the tornado from the air," he said.

While flying over the area, Bowley said they were able to sight individuals who had not been reached by rescuers. He added all those they spotted from the air waved and appeared to be OK.

It was several hours later that Bowley announced emergency crews had finally gotten through. He noted he was unable to determine the num-

dollars.

Wide areas of the Allegheny National Forest were damaged, Bowley said, including the newly designated Hickory Creek Wilderness Area.

U.S. Forest Service officials could not be reached for comment.

Several buildings at the Abraxas Center near Marienville in Forest County were destroyed or damaged, but none of the youths or staff at the juvenile rehabilitation center were reported injured.

In Warren County, the only populated area to be hit by a tornado was in Limestone Township near Tidioute.

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One woman was killed in Linesville when she was crushed beneath a travel trailer at Pymatuning State Park. Three persons were killed near Cochran, two in Centerville, and five in Atlantic, a village 12 miles southwest of Meadville inhabited largely by Amish families.

The tornadoes cut a path of devastation more than a half-mile wide from Adamsville, a mile away, as it made its way through Atlantic, picking up and touching down across the county. Residents near Cochran reported hail the size of softballs accompanied the heavy rains and high winds.

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Friday night, "chaos" was the word Cooperstown Fire Chief J. Boughner Sr. could find to describe the situation. The tornado struck numerous times in that area, first in Cooperstown along Lake Road, then areas along Bradleytown Fire Creek Road, and other remote roads that branch out of the Cooperstown-Bradleytown area like a spider's web.

Rescue workers had great difficulty in finding all the locations where the tornado touched down in the north-central portion of the county, destroying homes and causing fires. Rescue workers were further hampered in reaching individual homes along the rural roads, downed trees and other debris blocked the roadways.

Even before the first rescue began to arrive, residents of the area were working with chainsaws attempting to clear paths for rescuers. All available PennDOT equipment and crews were pressed into service, and highlifts and trucks were used to plow through debris on the narrow, winding roads.

Friday night, rescuers and emergency personnel were further hampered by sightseers, many

MOST RURAL OF PENNSYLVANIA'S COUNTIES

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Times-News Tri-City Bureau

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There are seven known dead from Forest County, but little other information could be obtained, and three dead in McKean County.

Forest County is nearly completely cut off from the outside world. There is no telephone service, the Tionesta Fire Department lost its radio tower and with it most emergency radio communications in Forest County were lost, and the state police barracks at Tionesta was reported to be having radio difficulties.

Saturday afternoon some areas of Forest County had not yet been reached by rescue personnel. However, State Representative Curt Bowley notified the Times-News shortly after 8 p.m. that all areas of Forest County had been reached in the early evening hours and all persons accounted for.

All information for Forest County and McKean County was initially being released by state police at the Punxsutawney barracks and later from a Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency command post in Harrisburg.

Harsdest hit in Forest County were the Marienville, Dutch Hill and German Hill areas. Most of the deaths occurred in the German Hill area.

State Senator John Peterson was one of the few persons able to reach Tionesta.

"You can see the fear in their eyes," Peterson said, "it's much worse for them. They have no communications, they don't know what the status of anything is. They don't know about their friends and relatives. They are overwhelmed."

Peterson confirmed that by mid-afternoon Saturday, areas of Forest County, notably the Ross Run area, had not been reached by rescuers.

Peterson said he thought it might be a week or longer before electricity and phone service could be restored to wide areas of Forest County. "There are no wires left, no poles left. They will have to start from scratch," he said.

Bowley flew over the tornadoes' path of destruction around noon Saturday.

"We've had tornadoes in western Pennsylvania before and we will have them again," said Abe Greenberg, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service office in Pittsburgh. But, he added, the number and intensity of the storms that hit the region Friday are rare.

In fact, Greenberg said he believes that the storms Friday probably rivaled the series of tornadoes that

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While flying over the area, Bowley said they were able to sight individuals who had not been reached by rescuers. He added all those they spotted from the air waved and appeared to be OK.

It was several hours later that Bowley announced emergency crews had finally gotten through. He noted he was unable to determine the number of homes destroyed, but said it appeared to be significant. He added that he would estimate the timber loss alone will be in the millions of

Area Is Not Immune To Tornadoes

By JIM CARROLL
Times-News Tri-City Bureau
Western Pennsylvania is not in the area that meteorologists call "tornado alley," but that does not mean the region is immune to the devastating funnel clouds. And Friday's storms are vivid testimony to that.

"We've had tornadoes in western Pennsylvania before and we will have them again," said Abe Greenberg, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service office in Pittsburgh. But, he added, the number and intensity of the storms that hit the region Friday are rare.

In fact, Greenberg said he believes that the storms Friday probably rivaled the series of tornadoes that

ripped through western Pennsylvania and eastern West Virginia, killing about 150 people back in the 1940's.

Friday's storms, according to Joe Fracassi, meteorologist with the National Weather Service's Erie office, were the result of a mixture of weather conditions -- an intense storm and low pressure system moving through the Great Lakes region with a cold front moving pushing into warm, moist and very unstable air. The unusual combination of weather conditions proved to be deadly for the region.

The conditions are more common to the area known as "tornado alley." Greenberg explained that region generally includes the area from Texas

dollars.

Wide areas of the Allegheny National Forest were damaged, Bowley said, including the newly designated Hickory Creek Wilderness Area.

U.S. Forest Service officials could not be reached for comment.

Several buildings at the Abraxas Center near Marienville in Forest County were destroyed or damaged, but none of the youths or staff at the juvenile rehabilitation center were reported injured.

In Warren County, the only populated area to be hit by a tornado was in Limestone Township near Tidioute. State Police reported several houses, a mobile home and two restaurants were destroyed, but only eight persons were reported injured.

and Oklahoma up to Michigan, west to Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska. "Generally it ends in western Ohio, that's usually its eastern border," he noted.

Pennsylvania's mountains are one reason it sees so few tornadoes. The flat terrain of the Midwest makes it easier for the tornadoes to move while mountains tend to block their flow and help break them up. Also, Greenberg explained, the cold air in the storm systems generally tend to warm up and the storm wears down as it moves east.

Tornadoes are not as common in Pennsylvania as they are in other areas, Greenberg noted, but this area can get severe thunderstorms or tornadoes any time the conditions are right.

Section B

Venango County Damage May Top \$5.5 Million

By JOHN BARTLETT
Times-News Tri-City Bureau
And

By JIM CARROLL
Times-News Tri-City Bureau

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Preliminary estimates of damages by Venango County emergency management officials included \$1,650,000 in Canal Township, \$600,000 in Cherrytree Township, one million in Jackson Township, two million in Oakland Township, and \$243,000 in Scrubgrass Township.

"That totals \$5.5 million. It's the closest we can get right now," said John Woloszyn of the county emergency management agency. "Actually we expect it to be more than that. Those are only preliminary estimates. When actual figures have come in they have been higher than estimates, so it will probably be more than \$5.5 million."

Tim Dunkle, EMA director, said at least 60 residences were destroyed and dozens of others heavily damaged.

The preliminary damage assessment came as county officials and residents began to take stock following the tornadoes that swept through the county shortly after 6 p.m. Friday.

Continuing shock and trauma tempered by a sense of relief were

whom had friends or relatives who lived near the devastated areas.

In the Cherrytree area, rescuers had little difficulty in finding where the tornado had struck. McCormick's Trailer Court, located along Route 417, was virtually gone. Eleven trailers and two houses were located at the site and all that is left is a field of debris. In many cases the only evidence that a trailer occupied a site was a twisted metal frame surrounded by scattered household effects, clothing and scraps of sheet metal.

Leaking propane gas tanks, their valves snapped off, delayed access to the site.

The first residents to return Saturday were Jeff and Cathy Hubbard. Theirs was the only trailer that still bore any resemblance to a mobile home. Hubbard, his broken ribs bandaged, and his wife started the task of gathering what household effects they could salvage. His father, John Hubbard of Franklin, surveyed the scene.

"This is unbelievable, isn't it? You read and hear about things like this happening in other places but you don't think it could happen here," he said as he pointed to the now vacant sites where the trailers and homes were located.

One of the first to see the tornadoes in Venango County was Cooperstown Assistant Fire Chief Ed Sanner who spotted one along Lake Road, just north of Cooperstown.

"I could see the top of it coming. I saw it coming down by the creek -- a black funnel cloud. And then all hell



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to get in my car when I was driving, and laid down on the side of the road. I was hit in the left arm from a piece of wood. "It picked me up and put me down." Only the first floor of the home was left standing.

State Park superintendent Herick said facilities at the camp will be closed indefinitely until they can be made. He said Linesville is in the thousands, and he had not had a chance to assess the damage done to the headquarters near

boats were on the lake during the storm, but there was no official report of anyone missing. The Junior High School and the Roman Catholic Church, as well as churches and centers in the affected area, are serving as temporary homes for the homeless.

Damages

of the Allegheny National Forest were damaged, Bowley said. The newly designated Wilderness Area, he said, is being surveyed by Service officials could be used for comment.

Buildings at the Abraxas Marienville in Forest were destroyed or damaged, he said. The youths or staff at the rehabilitation center were injured.

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Tornadoes

up to Michigan, west of Missouri, Nebraska, "General in western Ohio, that's the border," he noted. "The mountains are one of the few tornadoes. The Midwest makes it the tornadoes to move. They tend to block their break them up. Also, the cold air in the storms generally tend to the storm wears down.

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County commissioners had declared the county a disaster area.

The hardest hit areas in Venango County were the Village of Cherrytree near the intersection of Route 8 and Route 417 in northeastern Venango County, and the Coopers-town-Bradleytown area in north-central Venango County. Lt. Gov. William Scranton toured those areas at 4 p.m. Saturday.

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Dunkle said the devastated areas would remain closed to all but residents at least through this morning and possibly longer.

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Rescue workers had great difficulty in finding all the locations where the tornado touched down, in the north-central portion of the county, destroying homes and causing injuries. Rescue workers were further hampered in reaching individual homes along the rural roads by downed trees and other debris that blocked the roadways.

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Friday night, rescuers and emergency personnel were further hampered by sightseers, many of

County was Cooperstown. Assistant Fire Chief Ed Sanner who spotted one along Lake Road, just north of Cooperstown.

"I could see the top of it coming. I saw it coming down by the creek -- a black funnel cloud. And then all hell broke loose," he said.

"There was a barn there, a trailer there, a trailer there and a barn there. They're all gone. Flattened," said Bradleytown Road resident Dale Stants as he stood along the roadside pointing to the path the funnel cloud took.

Among the injured in the Bradleytown Road area were members of the Wilson family who were in a trailer that collapsed. There were 11 people in the trailer, many of them children, when it was crushed by the winds and collapsed.

"I could hear screams coming from the trailer. I could hear screaming and hollering and then help came," said Barbara Wallace, a neighbor.

Mrs. Wallace lost the roof of her home, a new work shop building, a barn and an undetermined amount of oil well equipment, but she considers herself and her family lucky. "My husband John and my son went to town to get a haircut. If they had been here they would have been working in that shop when the overhead door fell in I don't doubt that they would have been killed."

Mrs. Wallace took shelter in her basement when the storm hit. "I saw mud and everything spinning."

She witnessed one of the more spectacular incidents, and certainly one of the luckiest, as a car carrying three or four people was picked up off the road flipped over and dropped in a field. The occupants of the car walked away, covered with mud, she said.

"I've lived here all my life, I was raised right next door, and I've never seen anything like it, I've never been through anything like this," said Norma Senott, wife of state Trooper Joseph Senott.

The Senotts live along Bradleytown Road, directly in the path of the tornado.

"I had heard about the tornado warning on TV and I was looking out the sliding doors and looked up over the hill and this big, black cloud began taking trees up, sucking them right up. I started screaming. I thought we were dead," Mrs. Senott said.

She said her husband and 15-year-old son remained calm, rushing through their home opening windows to equalize the pressure. Their home survived, but narrowly, the tornado ripping apart huge trees in their yard.

As soon as the tornado passed, Trooper Senott left his family to aid in rescue efforts.

Wendy Stants, another Coopers-town-Bradleytown Road Resident, said she watched a neighboring mobile home "go up right before my eyes, it just blew apart."

Mrs. Stants said she and her husband laid on the floor of their mobile home atop their children as the funnel cloud turned towards their home.

"It lifted up our home, straight up, and then slammed it back down on the foundation. You could see things flying everywhere. It was like a nightmare, and then in seconds it was over -- quiet," she said.



Death, Destruction



A Penelec crew member checks out electric lines in Albion Saturday following in the aftermath of the tornado that hit the western Erie County community Friday night. The devastation

can be seen from his high perch. At least 12 persons were confirmed dead in the Albion-Cranesville area. (Times-News photo by Joe Comstock.)



Three members of the National Guard contingent patrol the streets of Albion, one of the hardest hit communities by the tornado. (Photo by Roy Seneca.)



Bob Gould looks over what's left of his home on E. State St. in Albion Saturday afternoon.



A shocked woman looks for her possessions after a tornado leveled everything in Kennedy's Trailer Park in Cranesville on Friday.



A body is removed from a shattered house in Albion on Friday. A man and his wife both died in the house.



Bob Gould looks over what's left of his home on E. State St. in Albion Saturday afternoon.



COOPERSTOWN — Mrs. Dorothy McCool, 48, of RD 1, Cooperstown, Venango County, was not home Friday evening when the tornado destroyed her home north of here. But when she returned home late that night and saw the structure, which had been blown off of its foundation, suffered a stroke according to her sons, who are pictured.



On Route 417 between Titusville and Franklin, half a TV satellite dish stands next to a house demolished by a tornado that tore

through on Friday. Trees were uprooted, and those that remained standing were festooned with debris.



COOPERSTOWN — "My God, where is my baby," is what is what Mrs. Alan Zinz of RD 1, Cooperstown, said after she realized her two-year-old son, Matthew, was missing after the killer tornado struck and demolished their double-wide mobile home north of here early Friday night. Her husband, who is pointing to the remains of their home, said his wife, Betty, grabbed their two sons, Matthew and Adam, 5, and ran to the rear of the home near their patio when she realized what was happening. He said a huge tree from the yard next door came flying into their property. "At that point she threw herself down on top of the boys and the tornado struck," Zinz explained. "It lasted for about 20 minutes and then it was over, but when she got up Matthew was missing. She prayed to God and then called out 'where is my baby?' A moment later Matthew got up from a little indentation in the ground and said 'Here I am Mommy!' And he didn't have a stitch of clothes on. The three of them held a tearful reunion." Zinz explained they were treated at the Franklin Regional Medical Center and later released. Mrs. Zinz has worked there for 15 years as a licensed practical nurse. Zinz, who works at Franklin Steel, said they lost everything in the tornado. He said the one mobile home was 12 by 70 feet and the other 12 by 65 feet and they were connected. He added that he did not have insurance, but he does plan to rebuild on the lot.

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