

**The Weather**  
Sunny and mild today; clear tonight. Partly cloudy, showers or thundershowers possible Sunday. High: 75-80 degrees; overnight low: 55-60 degrees. Details on Page 2.

# The Vindicator

Youngstown, Ohio

City  
EDITION  
★ ★ ★ ★  
The People's Paper

32 PAGES Copyright 1985, The Vindicator Printing Co. SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 1985 Dispatches from AP, UPI, N.Y. Times, Washington Post, L.A. Times, Knight-Ridder, N.Y. Daily News, Chicago Tribune. 20 CENTS

# TWISTERS SMASH AREA; MANY DIE



Scene of devastation: These homes in a development off Niles-Vienna Road were leveled by a tornado that continued north across U.S. Route

## Hundreds are injured

More than a dozen people were killed, hundreds were injured and scores rendered homeless by a series of tornadoes that ripped through the region Friday evening.

Exact figures on the number of dead and injured were not available this morning, as authorities struggled to dig out from the debris.

Those communities believed to have been hit the hardest are:

Niles, where at least nine people were known dead; Wheatland, Pa., where six people were reported killed; Atlantic in Crawford County, Pa., where five people died; and Hubbard Township and Lordstown, which reported one fatality each as a result of the twisters.

In Newton Falls, the post office, a gas station and a drugstore were leveled. Heavy damage also was reported in a handful of communities in Columbiana County, including New Waterford and Franklin Square; and Gustavus and Bloomfield townships in northern Trumbull County, the first area locally to feel the fury of the storm.

- A partial list of those killed in the storm follows:
- Evan Evans, 70, of 1745 Thomas Road, Hubbard.
  - Elaine Italiano, 39, of 6623 Harrington Ave., Youngstown.
  - Linda McMahon, 27, of 281 Roanoke Ave., Austintown.
  - Helen Thomas, 84, of 307 Hyde Ave., Niles.
  - Marie Sofranik, of Newton Falls.
  - Emma Yanucci, 67, of 903 Cynthia St., Niles.

Authorities were still finding bodies as they searched through the rubble this morning. Looters were running rampant during the night along U.S. 422 in Niles, taking what they could from several of the damaged businesses along the darkened "Strip."

Gov. Richard F. Celeste toured the most devastated portions of Trumbull County shortly after midnight and declared it a disaster (Please turn to page 20, column 1)

## Celeste promises help for victims in Trumbull

By Bertram de Souza  
Vindicator politics writer

Standing in the middle of the rubble that was once the main street in Newton Falls, Gov. Richard F. Celeste pledged early this morning to do whatever is necessary to help the victims of Friday's tornadoes in Trumbull County.

As a first step, Celeste declared the county a disaster area, which means it could qualify for federal disaster relief money. He said the death toll, initially set at five, strengthens the county's case.

In addition, two helicopters from the Ohio National Guard will fly over the area today to better assess the damage from the twisters that touched down in Niles, Newton

Falls, Lordstown, parts of Warren and Vienna, and Liberty and Hubbard townships.

Celeste, using from a kidney stone, spent about four hours in Trumbull County early this morning reassuring officials that the state "will do everything we can and use every resource we can to help the people."

The governor flew into Youngstown Municipal Airport at 12:20 a.m. today, accompanied by James Harris, director of the Ohio Department of Industrial Relations, Raymond Galloway, adjutant general, and Brian Usher, Celeste's press secretary.

In addition, Michael McCullon, director of the Ohio Bureau of Meteorology (Please turn to page 20, column 3)

422 and destroyed a skating rink and small shopping plaza. Officials say at least nine people died Friday night in Niles.

## 'It just hit and I hung on': Survivors recall fierce force

It began with the National Weather Service issuing a tornado watch for northeastern Ohio and western Pennsylvania — not the kind of thing that necessarily demands attention.

"Everybody says, 'It's just another tornado watch. We get them all the time.' I don't think anybody even gave it a thought," Pete Molluca of Niles observed.

Never a thought, that is, until the black funnels began touching down. Just like the kind that swept Dorothy away to Oz, but there is no storybook ending to this tale.

Just a swath of death and destruction of a kind that many said they won't ever be able to forget as they recounted their experiences from area hospitals and ruined stores and neighborhoods.

One who will never forget is Meg Allen, who sat down to dinner with her boyfriend, 28-year-old John Evans, at his Hubbard Township

home shortly after 7 p.m. on a typical Friday night.

His parents, Evan Evans, 70, and his wife, Doris, were watching television in the living room of their home at 1745 Thomas Road as the kids ate.

Suddenly, John jumped from his seat and began yelling for the family to go to the basement.

"John grabbed me and kind of threw me and shouted, 'Get into the basement,' and he ran to get his parents," Miss Allen, 24, recalled as she was treated for minor injuries at Northside Medical Center.

The four did not reach the door to the basement before the tornado touched down with violent force. Miss Allen, of Canfield Township,

said, "It just hit and I hung on. I think I was trying to hang onto a doorway. I remember thinking that I shouldn't open my eyes."

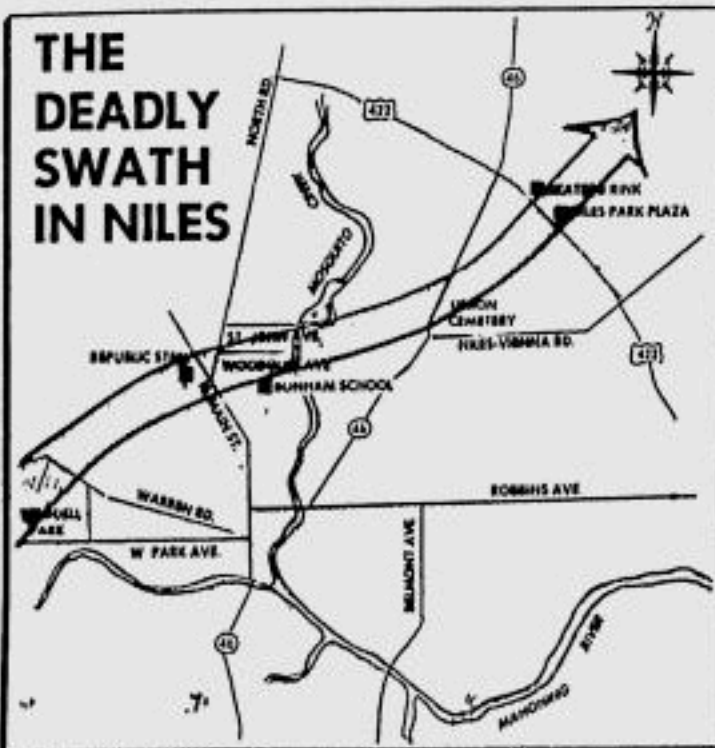
"When I did open my eyes, I was just hanging on to a piece of wood. It wasn't a doorway at all. We [Miss Allen and Mrs. Evans] were on top of this pile, and John and his dad were under the pile."

The "pile" was the big, two-story frame house that the Evans called home. It was reduced to rubble.

Evans was pronounced dead at Northside Medical Center.

Al Segreto won't forget either. Segreto was at work at the Trumbull County Private Industry Council in the Niles Park Plaza when the tornado touched down about 6:45 p.m. Friday.

"The lights started blinking — three times. Then the third time, all the lights went out," he recalled. "It scared me, and I ran around to the (Please turn to page 20, column 2)



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