Deadly tornadoes sweep across the Midwest

At least five dead and dozens injured by unusually powerful late-season storms

By Dan Balwin and David Mercer
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON, Ill. | Dozens of tornadoes and intense thunderstorms swept across the Midwest on Sunday, leaving at least five people dead and unleashing powerful winds that flattened entire neighborhoods, flipped over cars and uprooted trees.

Illinois took the brunt of the fury as the string of unusually powerful late-season tornadoes tore across the state, injuring dozens and even prompting officials at Chicago's Soldier Field to evacuate the stands and delay the Bears game.

"The whole neighborhood's gone. The wall of my fireplace is all that is left of my house," said Michael Perdue, speaking by cellphone from the hard-hit central Illinois town of Washington, where he said his neighborhood was wiped out in a matter of seconds.

"I stepped outside, and I heard it coming. My daughter was already in the basement, so I ran downstairs and grabbed her, crowded in the laundry room, and she screamed," said Washington, Ill., homeowner Pam Womack.

Washington, Ill., homeowners and friends try to salvage items from homes that were destroyed by tornadoes on Sunday.

The Associated Press

UA exhibit lights up history

A display commemorating the 50th anniversary of a 1964 surgeon general's report about the health effects of smoking is set up in the lobby of Amella Gayle Gorgas Library on the University of Alabama campus on Friday. A professor in UA's College of Community Health Sciences has set up a display called "The Surgeon General vs. The Marlboro Man: Who Really Won?"

By Ed Enoch
Staff Writer

The old magazines, novelties and newspaper clippings on display in the lobby of the Amella Gayle Gorgas Library at the University of Alabama are a snapshot of the heyday of cigarettes in the U.S. and a record of the gradual shift in public attitudes about smoking following a landmark 1964 report by the U.S. surgeon general.

"The report came about because the health organizations like American Cancer Society wanted the government to be involved, because they hadn't been," said Dr. Alan Blum, the Gerald Leon Wallace MD Endowed Chair in Family Medicine at UA's College of Community Health Sciences. Blum, the exhibits curator, is one of the nation's foremost authorities in the history of smoking and cigarette marketing and a vocal and long-time advocate for the anti-smoking movement.

The exhibit, featuring an array of materials from the 1900s to present, commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Jan. 11, 1964, release of the U.S. Surgeon General's Report on Smoking and Health. Work on the report began under the administration of President John F. Kennedy in 1962.

The document was compiled by a committee convened by U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Luther Terry and reported by serious health scientists.

"The Surgeon General vs. The Marlboro Man: Who Really Won?" display features a copy of a scientific report, advertising, press clippings and other materials cataloging the public discussion of the impact of smoking from the 1940s to present.

Display in Gorgas records shift in U.S. attitude about smoking

Kidnapping trial to start for ex-player, mom

Jesse Pollard expected to plead temporary insanity

By Holbrook Mohr
The Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. | Trial is scheduled to begin today for a Mississippi woman and her son, a former University of Alabama basketball player, both charged with conspiring to kidnap a 6-year-old girl from school.

Jesse Mae Brown Pollard has filed court documents saying she plans to use an insanity defense during the trial in U.S. District Court in Jackson. Miss. She is expected to argue that she was insane at the time of the abduction.

"Mrs. Pollard continues to maintain her innocence, and we are diligently preparing for trial," her lawyer, Abby Brumley, said in an email.

Federal prosecutors filed a motion Thursday asking to block Jesse Pollard from using insanity as a defense. The document cited a July 2009 federal appellate court ruling that said Jesse Pollard underwent an evaluation that found she "was not suffering from a mental disease or defect which would render her

Recent attacks on teachers shed light on job risks

By Carolyn Thompson
The Associated Press

When a 16-year-old student slammed a metal trash can onto Phillip Raimondo's head, it did more than break open the history teacher's scalp, knock him out and send him bleeding to the floor.

"It changed my whole world," Raimondo said about the attack in the school where he taught for 22 years.

Experts say the phenomenon of student-on-teacher violence is too often ignored.

"There's some reluctance to think that the teaching profession can be unsafe," said Dr. Bernard Terry, executive director of the University of MO.

Strengthening the Framework of the University of MO.
SMOKING
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consequences of tobacco use, including identifying smoking as a significant risk factor for lung cancer and linking it to emphysema and heart disease.

The exhibit will be on display until Dec. 1 at the library, according to curator Joan Tietjen.

A version will be displayed at the 1st. the Lyndon Baines Johnson Presidential Library in Austin and the Texas Medical Center in Houston.

On Nov. 29, there will be a presentation at Ruggar Library from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. to honor the memory of Terron, an Allen native, to inaugurate the premiere of a documentary about the legacy of the report and a discussion of future efforts to reduce smoke and counter its promotion.

Seven percent were threat-
ened with injury by a stu-
dent with a weapon.

A 2011 survey found that 80 percent of teachers reported being threatened, harassed, assaulted or otherwise victimized by students over the previous year. Of 5,000 teachers surveyed, 44 percent reported physical offenses including threats, damage to school property and attacks with weapons, according to the American Psychological Association Task Force on Violence Against Teachers, which conducted the national web-based survey.

The task force recommends to their respective school board to track the nature and frequency of incidents, saying this would help develop plans for prevention and intervention. It also suggested that all educators be required to undergo training in conflict management before they are licensed.

Raimondo, who taught in the state's public schools for more than 20 years, was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder and thought about sui-
cide and other head injuries and has said he lost 10 fingers.

She attributes her return to teaching, the history teacher who coached cross-country, girls' basketball and softball remains in therapy and on medication today, nearly 10 years later.

"I trusted kids," Raimondo said, becoming emotional as he told The Associated Press of his story for the first time. "I loved what I did. For 22 years, I

smoke was found attached to his clothes, which were still smoldering.

"That was my identity," he said. "I'm not sure why I was able to overcome that, but I think I have."

His attacker, one of two girls he had stopped for trespassing, was shot and later died from his injuries. A second victim, who was also shot, has since recovered.

The National Education Association, the largest teachers' organization, is training teachers to recognize the warning signs of assaults.

NEA President Dennis Van Roode said that while school campuses remain safe places, local law enforcement and resources should be directed toward dis-

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all of a sudden I could see daylight up the stairway and the water was gone.

An elderly man and his sis-
ter were killed when a tor-

attackers.

With communications dif-
ficult and many roads im-
passable, it remained unclear how many people were killed or injured, and how losses were.

The Illinois National Guard said it had dispatched 10 firefightlers and three vehicles to Washington, where two others per-
ished in Carson County.

In Washington, a rural community of about 2,400 people, Soldiers of New York were deployed to the town to help with immediate search and recovery operations.

Washington, a small town, had been hit by the tornado, and its windward side was impassable, as was the road leading to the hospital.

"We were able to see the tornado," S.D.ὼrd said. "I saw it myself."

"It was a cyclone," he said.

"I saw it from my window," he said. "It looked like a monster."