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THE NEWS-TIMES

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Logan Lucas, 10, plays on a huge branch that came down in his family's yard on Russeling Ridge Road in New Milford during a rainstorm Tuesday night.

Carol Kaliff/Staff photographer

NEW MILFORD

Officials conclude storm not tornado

1 dead, power KO'd to thousands after ferocious weather rips path through area

By Susan Tuz

NEW MILFORD — The ferocious storm that whipped through the region Tuesday night knocked down hundreds of trees, blocked dozens of roads, closed schools in two districts and deprived some 12,000 customers of electric power at least temporarily.



Lt. Lawrence Ash meets with the media on Van Car Road in New Milford to discuss a storm-related fatality on the road the evening before.

death of a New Milford man, who apparently was electrocuted after a power line fell on his car.

Joshua Norton, of New Milford, was working in Danbury on Tuesday night when his wife called to tell him to avoid Grove Street on the way home. Still, he was unprepared for what he saw in town.

"It was crazy," said Norton, who lives on Park Lane Road. "Trees were twisted and torn up. The tree at the end of our driveway cracked in half, blocking the drive. My wife said she heard thunder and then a loud crack and crash. It looks like a tornado hit."



Photo gallery: For more photos of the storm's aftermath, scan this code or go to: bit.ly/1tRKHfC

Weather officials initially suspected the same thing. They arrived Wednesday to inspect storm damage and determine whether the storm was a twister or a sudden and intense downdraft known as a microburst.

"What we saw on radar was rotation in the storm, then it died down as it passed New Milford," said meteorologist Bill Jacquemin, of the Connecticut Weather Center.

But after examining the damage, they concluded that it was the result of "straight-line winds" blowing at 100 mph, Jacquemin said. Officials with

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"For everybody's safety, if a wire falls on your car, stay inside. Do not try to exit the vehicle. Wait till help arrives."

New Milford Mayor Pat Murphy

DANBURY HOSPITAL

Simulated patients help doctors hone skills

Center offers staff a chance to perfect procedures that don't come up routinely

By Robert Miller

DANBURY — As dummies go, Mr. Meti-Man is pretty sophisticated.

He has a pulse and a heartbeat. He bleeds. He groans in pain and sighs with relief when medicated. He can go into cardiac arrest, flatline and die.

Then, in a matter of minutes, he can be resting comfortably, vital signs beeping normally on the monitor behind him.

For the medical staff who will practice on him — and other state-of-the-art mannequins in the Center for Simulation and Clinical Learning at Danbury Hospital — the advantages are huge.

The center — funded by a gift from philanthropist Harold Spratt — will offer

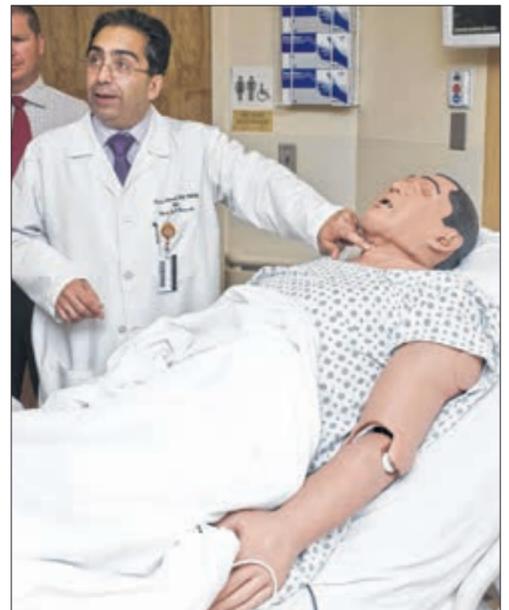
the full range of hospital staff a chance to practice and perfect procedures that don't come up routinely.

"It's essentially a project dedicated to patient safety," said Dr. Ramin Ahmadi, chairman of medical education and research at Danbury Hospital.

In a sense, the medical field is now following the direction of the airlines, another industry that can't afford to make mistakes. For many years airlines have trained pilots in simulators, mimicking the most difficult conditions so they are

See Meti-Man on A6

Mannequins can fake death and respond to medical errors by appearing to get sicker.



Scott Mullin/For The News-Times

Dr. Ramin Ahmadi, chairman of medical education and research, discusses the use of mannequins in the Harold A. Spratt Center for Simulation and Clinical Learning at Danbury Hospital.

BIKES ADDED TO ROADSIDE SERVICE

AAA will assist stranded cyclists

By Amanda Cuda

Springing a flat tire in the middle of nowhere is a terrifying prospect — and not just for those driving cars and trucks. Avid bicyclists dread it, too.

"Getting a flat tire is a huge issue that really weighs on people's minds," said Shawn Emerson, owner of the Bicycle Center in Brookfield.

Many cyclists carry their

own tubes and pumps in case of flats, but not everyone does. And sometimes a bike can have a more serious problem that leaves the rider stranded and in need of a lift.

So Emerson was intrigued to hear of a new AAA program that provides bicycle riders with the same kind of roadside service offered to drivers of automobiles.

AAA Southern New Eng-

land started offering bicycle roadside assistance earlier this month, which is National Bike Safety Month.

The auto club, which serves residents of Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and some parts of New Jersey, is one of a handful of AAA branches to offer bike assistance. Other chapters include those in Southern New Jersey and Minneapolis.

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