

DISCUSS

Continued from 1A

were “more roadblocks ahead” for Marcellus Shale drilling.

Vitale said the area is losing billions of dollars due to the three-year delay in drilling. For many in the area, the wait may cost them their livelihood since speculators have driven up land values – and property taxes, he said.

“It used to be my biggest cost was feed,” said Vitale, the owner of a 70-head dairy farm. “Now it’s taxes.”

O’Mara said he understands the frustration the wait has caused residents, but added he supports the current 90-day public comment period on drilling being held by the DEC as a way to be sure drilling is done safely.

Tim Hargrave, of Cameron Mills, questioned whether a short-staffed DEC is able to monitor large-scale safety issues.

Hargrave pointed out the DEC allows sludge, which studies have shown to be toxic, to be dumped in Steuben County.

Palmesano and O’Mara agreed to review the materials Hargrave gave them and meet with him to discuss the issue more.

Tuesday’s meeting also drew questions about reducing outsized business-related fees, preventing welfare fraud and encouraging the unemployed to go back to work. The needs of the aging also were discussed.

O’Mara and Palmesano will hold a joint meeting with constituents at 5:30 p.m. Thursday at Corning City Hall.



An insider’s view.  
Friday’s Leader, 4A



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this May 30 file photo, damage is seen in a devastated Joplin, Mo., neighborhood.

## NWS: Many in Joplin ignored first tornado warnings

BY MARIA SUDEKUM FISHER

Associated Press

### KANSAS CITY, MO.

Many Joplin residents either ignored or were slow to react to the first warning sirens about a massive and deadly tornado this spring, partially because of years of false alarms, the government said Tuesday.

In assessing the communications and warning systems used before and during the storm that killed 162 people, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said many people waited for additional information like seeing the tornado or a television or radio report about the urgency of the threat.

“The majority of surveyed Joplin residents did not immediately go to shelter upon hearing the initial warning,” the report said, adding that those people “did not take protective action until processing additional credible confirmation of the threat and its magnitude from a non-routine, extraordinary risk trigger.”

A “vast majority” of

Joplin residents didn’t respond to the first siren because of an apparent widespread disregard for tornado sirens, according to the report.

Richard Wagenmaker, a National Weather Service meteorologist in Detroit and leader of the assessment team, said it was unclear if the slow public response cost lives.

“It’s really hard to tell how many people that perished in the tornado did not take shelter,” Wagenmaker said during a conference call. “It was a very large tornado, so there were certainly a number of people who did all the right things, took shelter in the best available place, but still found themselves in situations that weren’t survivable. So it’s really hard to make that assessment.”

The report also said the National Weather Service was overall well-prepared and “performed in an exemplary manner” and that the combined efforts from the weather service, emergency management and the public “saved many lives.”

But there were also lessons to be learned, including beefing up the wording in tornado warnings, the report said. After the intensity of the storm was clear, the resulting warnings weren’t worded strongly enough “to accurately portray that immediate action was necessary to save lives.”

Instead, the tornado warnings issued were the “basic template,” Wagenmaker said.

“Once there became an awareness that something big was going on, we wanted the severe weather statements and warnings to project a heightened sense of urgency,” he said. The warnings should have said “something along the lines of ‘This is a very large and dangerous tornado and don’t mess around,’ basically.”

The report said the weather service was considering developing other forms of notifications including GPS-based communications involving text messages, smart phone apps and upgrades to the Emergency Alert System and NOAA Weather Radio.

## Stocks end mixed as promise of Greek debt fix dims

BY FRANCESCA LEVY

AP Business Writer

**NEW YORK** | Investor optimism faded in a hurry Tuesday after two days of conferences ended with no resolution to Greece’s debt crisis.

Stocks erased nearly all of their gains in the last hour of trading after rallying for much of the day on hopes the Fed would stimulate the economy.

At the closing bell, the Dow Jones industrial average was left with a gain of 7.65 points, or 0.1 percent, at 11,408.66. It had been up as much as 149.21 points earlier in the day.

The Standard & Poor’s 500 index fell 2, or 0.2 percent, to 1,202.09. The Nasdaq composite fell 22.59, or 0.9 percent, to 2,590.24.

Many analysts believe the Fed will announce a new stimulus plan at the end of a two-day policy meeting Wednesday. But another two-day meeting, a teleconference between Greek officials and international lenders, spurred sellers late in the day.

After the teleconference, the European Commission said debt

inspectors would continue to review Greece’s progress on its budget goals early next week. That suggested to investors that a resolution to Greece’s debt crisis wouldn’t come in the next few days.

Greek Finance Minister Evangelos Venizelos attempted to convince the European Commission, International Monetary Fund and European Central Bank, known collectively as the Troika, that Greece can make deep budget cuts. Greece must meet the Troika’s strict budget targets in order to qualify for a second installment of the rescue package it received in 2010 to keep it from defaulting on its debt.

Greece is only one of several European countries that investors fear may be at risk of failing to pay their debts. On Monday night, the ratings agency Standard & Poor’s cut Italy’s credit rating by one notch, citing the country’s growing debt and weak growth outlook. Italy has the second-biggest debt burden among countries that use the euro, after Greece.

## DRAFT

Continued from 1A

shorter terms of one to four years.

Trustees will interview and approve the commissioners, who would then provide oversight and control over the village-owned utility. A village trustee would be a non-voting liaison to the commission and report to the village board on the utility’s operations.

According to vonHagn’s draft, the commission would provide a buffer between the elected Village Board and the utility. Board members are

elected for two years to serve village residents, while five-year-term commissioners are needed for continuity at BEGWS, the draft said.

VonHagn suggested village officials set Dec. 1 as a deadline for applications to be submitted to the village clerk.

Trustees said they would discuss the draft and deadline at the village board’s regular BEGWS meeting Oct. 3.

The original BEGWS commission was dissolved three years ago by the village board, which took on oversight of the utility.

## JAIL

Continued from 1A

plea agreement in April, she was to be sentenced to probation only on the charge of endangering the welfare of a child.

Tuesday, Cole said his sentence was “setting a standard” and he needed to make an “example” of Decker’s behavior.

Pre-sentence investigations done by the probation departments in Steuben and Chemung counties found Decker “minimalized” her conduct. Both departments recommended incarceration.

Before she was sentenced, Decker wept while addressing the court.

“I have lost a great deal more than any person should lose,” Decker said. “I feel like everyone looks at me differently ... Everything’s gone ... I don’t have a job, I don’t have a life, I don’t have anything ... I don’t sleep,

I don’t eat.”

Decker added that her marriage has fallen apart and she’s unsure how her young daughter will deal with the situation as she grows up.

“It’s all because of me,” Decker said. “I have no one to blame but myself.”

Decker said she “ruined” the normalcy of her victim’s teenage life.

“I hope maybe someday he can forgive me,” she said. “I hope he can get through this. I was the adult, he was the child.”

Decker and the student exchanged thousands of text messages over a period of weeks in February. Many of the texts, which were obtained by *The Leader*, were overtly sexual, and some indicated the pair had a physical relationship while at school, but Decker was not charged with having a physical relationship with the boy.

## BUS

Continued from 1A

friends was taken to the hospital.

“I think they’re mostly just scared and shaken up a bit,” said the girls’ father, who asked that the family’s names not be printed.

Officer Steve Sellard, who heads the Addison Police Department, said he did not suspect alcohol or drugs was a factor in the accident and that no tickets would be issued.

Both of the bus drivers

will be drug tested, which is standard procedure, DioGuardi said.

Local firefighters, New York State Police and the Steuben County Office of Emergency Management also responded to the scene, along with the ambulance crews.

One of the buses was leaking fluid beneath the engine and had to be towed from the scene by Crane’s Towing.

The names of the drivers involved and the students injured were not released.

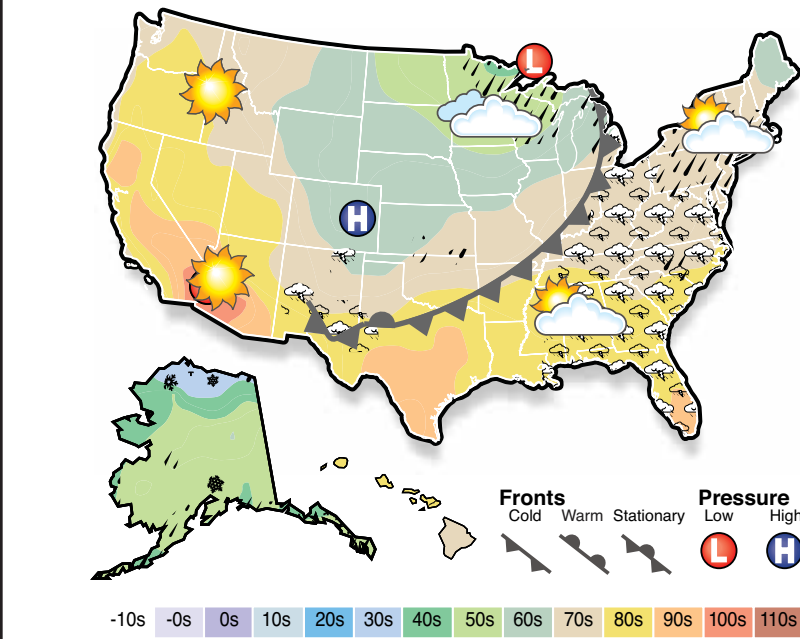
## SEVEN-DAY FORECAST



Today	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Inc. clouds, sct. shwrs. by early evening	M. cloudy, few shwrs.	Cloudy, sct. shwrs.	Cloudy, occ. shower possible	M. cloudy	Cloudy, rainy	Cloudy, more showers
High   74 Low   53	High   73 Low   60	High   70 Low   56	High   68 Low   55	High   69 Low   54	High   67 Low   55	High   65 Low   56

### National forecast

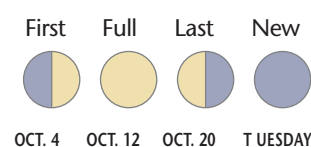
Forecast highs for Wednesday, Sept. 21



### WEATHER HISTORY

In 1938, a terrible hurricane hit Long Island and New England. An estimated 700 people died in the storm and thousands were left homeless.

### MOON PHASES



### SUNRISE | SUNSET

Sunrise today	6:54
Sunset today	7:08
Sunrise Thursday	6:55
Sunset Thursday	7:06