

Texas cleans up after twisters

Snow and ice pelt the Midwest

By DAVID WARREN
Associated Press

GARLAND, Texas — Jacqui Gordon spent Monday sifting through the debris that had been her home, searching for old family photographs — especially of her father, who died two years ago.

She and nine others were enjoying a holiday gathering when winds began to rattle her home in suburban Dallas. They all dashed into closets and suffered only bumps and bruises, but Gordon's roof was torn away and her house destroyed.

"I just got divorced, and this is all I had," she said.

With rain all day Sunday keeping people away, residents worked on a dreary and frigid Monday to salvage what they could, with the American Red Cross distributing items like tarps, rakes and work gloves to help them.

At least 11 people died and dozens were injured in the tornadoes that swept through the Dallas area Saturday. Snow from New Mexico through the Midwest, plus flooding in Arkansas, Missouri and Illinois, added to the succession of severe weather events across the country in the last week that led to about four dozen deaths.

The storm system brought heavy snow, ice and blustery winds to several states in the nation's midsection, as well as heavy rain in already-waterlogged areas.

More than 2,100 flights across the U.S. were canceled Monday — more than half of them at Chicago's two main airports — and 3,700 were delayed, according to flight-tracking service FlightAware. A typical day sees about 150 cancellations and 4,000 delays.

Highways turned icy and treacherous in New Mexico, while Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin declared a state of emergency after blizzard conditions affected parts of



G.J. McCarthy/The Dallas Morning News via AP

This aerial photo shows a damaged home after a tornado ripped through the area, Monday in Texas. Residents surveyed the destruction from deadly tornadoes in North Texas as the same storm system brought winter woes to the Midwest on Monday, amplifying flooding that's blamed for more than a dozen deaths and prompting hundreds of flight cancellations. At least 11 people died and dozens were injured in the tornadoes that swept through the Dallas area Saturday and caused substantial damage.

the state and heavy rains fell.

The Oklahoma Highway Patrol said the body of a 22-year-old man was recovered but a second man, the lead singer of the country-rock band Backroad Anthem, was still missing after the two went duck hunting and their boat capsized.

Officials in Arkansas said a 31-year-old man died in a storm-related drowning.

Several inches of rain caused flooding in Illinois and Missouri, where Gov. Jay Nixon also declared a state of emergency. Nixon says the state's death toll from days of pounding rainfall has risen to 10, and he expects that number to grow.

The Mississippi River neared a potential record crest, after an unusual amount of late-fall rain had the river already high before torrential downpours that began Saturday.

Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant said Monday the state is seeking a federal disaster declaration for some or all of the seven counties hit by a tornado last week. Authorities in Georgia said they

recovered the body of a man whose car was swept away when floodwaters overtook it.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott made disaster declarations Sunday for four counties — Dallas, Collin, Rockwall and Ellis. Officials estimated as many as 1,450 homes in North Texas were damaged or destroyed by at least nine tornadoes.

The National Weather Service has said an EF-4 tornado, which is the second-most powerful with winds up to more than 200 mph, hit Garland. Eight people died there, 15 were injured and more than 600 structures, mostly single-family homes, were damaged.

"I've never seen anything like this, with this scale of destruction," Police Chief Mitch Bates said Monday.

He said authorities believe all eight of the tornado victims there, which included a 1-year-old, died when their vehicles were thrown from overpasses in the area of Interstate 30 and the George Bush Turnpike, a major route in the region.

North of Dallas in Collin

County, neighbors and emergency responders had tried to save a tiny victim of the powerful storms.

Debralee King said she was in her yard assessing the damage when she heard a neighbor's scream and saw Jose Daniel Santillano appear with his newborn daughter. She said Santillano asked her to take the girl to the hospital, and she headed out with another neighbor.

"I kept saying, 'Oh my God. Be OK, baby. Be OK,'" King recalled. "Her little hand was cold. I kept praying."

King and local authorities say they found a game warden who performed CPR until an ambulance arrived — but the infant didn't survive.

Both the husband and wife were hospitalized Monday. The family's trailer was blown off its base.

"It's bad enough that the tornado took their home," King said. "But to take the baby, too, that's wrong."

Many roads across West Texas and the Panhandle were still closed due to snow-packed roads and ice, with long delays expected.

Russia removes Iran's enriched uranium as per nuclear deal

VIENNA (AP) — A landmark nuclear deal with Tehran moved closer to implementation Monday, with U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry announcing that tons of enriched uranium that could potentially be turned to use in atomic arms were on a ship heading from Iran to Russia.

Kerry hailed the development as "one of the most significant steps Iran has taken toward fulfilling its commitments" under the July 14 nuclear agreement, in comments that expanded on information The Associated Press received from a senior Russian diplomat earlier in the day.

That envoy, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to be cited by name, said Iran had permitted Russia to take possession of and ship out most of its low-enriched uranium. Low-enriched uranium is suitable primarily to generate nuclear power and needs substantial further enrichment for use in the core of a nuclear warhead.

But Kerry said that the shipment also included the remaining stock of Iranian uranium that already had been enriched to higher levels, just a technical step away from what is needed to form the fissile core of a nuclear bomb.

The July 14 deal aims to reduce Iran's ability to make nuclear weapons — something Tehran says it has no interest in.

Under the agreement, Iran committed to shipping out all except 300 kilograms (about 650 pounds) of its low-enriched uranium and to either export the uranium it has that is enriched to

near 20 percent, process it into low-enriched uranium or turn it into fuel plates to power a research reactor.

Kerry indicated both steps were completed Monday, announcing that more than 25,000 pounds (12.5 tons) of enriched "uranium materials" were in the hold of a Russian ship steaming toward Russia. He said the shipment included the near-20 percent enriched uranium that had not yet been turned into fuel plates.

The nuclear deal aims at increasing the time Tehran would need to make a nuclear weapon from present U.S. estimates of a few months to at least a year. Kerry said the export of enriched uranium means a significant move toward that goal by more than tripling "our previous two-three month breakout timeline."

The July agreement also commits Iran to sharply reduce the number of its centrifuges, which are used to enrich uranium, as well as to re-engineer a reactor to cut its output of plutonium — another pathway to nuclear weapons. The U.N.'s International Atomic Energy Agency, which is monitoring the progress of the Iranian implementation, says both of those measures are well underway.

The Russia-Iran accord under the July deal foresees that Moscow ship Iran around 140 tons of raw uranium in exchange for Tehran's low-enriched uranium, and Ali Akbar Salehi, who heads Iran's atomic energy organization, recently said that his country already received the uranium ore.

Chicago police fatally shoot two over weekend

By MICHAEL TARM
Associated Press

CHICAGO — Chicago police fatally shot a 19-year-old man and 55-year-old woman over the weekend, again putting a spotlight on one of the nation's largest police departments and raising questions about whether its officers are too quick to use deadly force.

The double shooting, which already has led to a civil lawsuit filed Monday, follows the Nov. 24 release of video showing white officer Jason Van Dyke shooting black 17-year-old Laquan McDonald 16 times in 2014. The release of the video sparked persistent protests, forced the resignation of the city's police chief and led to a wide-ranging civil rights investigation of the entire Chicago Police Department by the U.S. Department of Justice.

The following is a look at the latest shooting, what questions remain unanswered and what's likely to happen next.

Facts not in dispute

It's clear that at least one police officer opened fire early Saturday at a two-story home on Chicago's West Side. Mortally wounded by the gunfire was 19-year-old Quintonio LeGrier, who was home from college for the holidays and staying with his father in an upstairs apartment. Also killed was 55-year-old Bettie Jones, who lived in the ground-floor apartment. Both were black. Police were responding to at least one 911 call about a domestic disturbance involving LeGrier and his father. A police statement said officers "were confronted by a combative subject resulting in the discharging of the officer's weapon." It added the "female victim was accidentally struck."

What's not known

Among the many unan-



Nancy Stone/Chicago Tribune via AP

LaTarsha Jones, center, the daughter of Bettie Jones, is comforted by family and friends during a press conference on Sunday in front of the house where Bettie Jones was killed Saturday in the West Garfield Park neighborhood of Chicago.

swered questions: How many 911 calls were made? Was one made by Quintonio LeGrier himself? How many officers responded? What was the race of responding officers? How far away were LeGrier and Jones when police started firing? And perhaps most critically: Why did police decide to start shooting?

A police spokesman has declined to comment on the circumstances of the shooting beyond the brief original statement.

LeGrier's father, Antonio LeGrier, called police, but officers told him later that his son also had called 911 earlier, the elder LeGrier's lawyer, Basileios Foutris, said Monday.

A cousin of LeGrier's, Albert Person, says police indicated to LeGrier's father afterward that the teenager opened the door holding a bat as officers arrived. Person, who spoke to LeGrier's father at length about the incident, said it appeared shots were first fired at the teenager and Jones was shot as she tried to intervene. But lawyers for the Jones family say that it may have been Jones who opened the door for police and that police opened fire soon after.

Sam Adam Jr., a Jones family lawyer, says Jones and LeGrier were apparently

shot near the doorway, but that shell casings were found some 20 feet away. He said that raised questions about whether police could have perceived LeGrier as a threat at such a distance. It couldn't be independently verified that the casings had any link to Saturday's shooting.

Is there video?

Video has been central to controversies surrounding other police shootings nationwide, including the shooting of McDonald. Chicago authorities have not said if there is video from the dashcams of any squad cars that responded to the 911 call. Adam says police appear to have checked a security video on a house across the street from where Saturday's shooting occurred. But it wasn't known if that camera or other security cameras in the area captured the incident.

What's known about the victims

Bettie Jones was a mother of five who, a family spokesman said, also had many grandchildren. She had hosted family on Christmas Day, just hours before she was shot. She was known for working with community groups committed to reducing violence, said Person, who said he was also

a friend of hers. Person said it would have been in Jones' character to get up when she heard commotion outside and to attempt to help Quintonio LeGrier.

The 19-year-old was an engineering student at Northern Illinois University, according to relatives. "My son was going somewhere. ... He wasn't just a thug on the street," his mother said Sunday. She challenged reports that her son might have had emotional or mental illness issues, saying that wasn't the case.

What's next

Foutris filed a wrongful death lawsuit on behalf of Quintonio LeGrier's father Monday, and attorneys for the Jones family say they expect to file a suit of their own soon. The LeGrier suit in Cook County Circuit Court contends Quintonio LeGrier never had a weapon and never threatened anyone before police fired. The suit, which doesn't specify an amount in potential damages, also alleges police forced the father to go immediately to a police station to answer questions, separating him from his son as he was dying. The city's law department declined comment.

The city's Independent Police Review Authority is investigating the double police shooting, and Mayor Rahm Emanuel's office has said IPRA would share its evidence with the county prosecutor's office.

On Sunday, Emanuel called on police and IPRA to review crisis-intervention training.

The mayor said in a statement that he directed the new acting chief administrator of IPRA and the interim police superintendent to meet as soon as possible. He said he wants them to review the training around how officers respond to mental health crisis calls, and determine deficiencies and how to immediately address them.



AP Photo

Iraqi soldiers hold national flags in the government complex in central Ramadi, 70 miles west of Baghdad, Iraq, Monday.

Iraqi troops advance in Ramadi

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraqi forces backed by U.S.-led airstrikes drove Islamic State militants out of the center of Ramadi on Monday and seized the main government complex there, according to military officials, who said insurgents are still dug into pockets of the city west of Baghdad.

Ramadi, the provincial capital of the sprawling Anbar province, fell to IS in May, marking a major setback for Iraqi forces and the U.S.-led campaign. Ramadi and nearby Fallujah, which is controlled by IS, saw some of the heaviest fighting of the eight-year U.S. intervention in Iraq.

In recent months Iraqi forces launched several offensives to retake Ramadi, but all had stalled. Iraqi troops began advancing into some parts of the city, located about 80 miles west of Baghdad, earlier this month. But their progress was slowed by snipers, booby traps and the militants' destruction of bridges leading into the city center.

The heavy fighting and limited access to front-lines made it difficult to follow the troops' progress, and Iraqi officials issued a string of sometimes contradictory statements.

Brig. Gen. Ahmed al-Belawi told The Associated Press that IS militants stopped firing from inside the government complex at

around 8 a.m. Monday and said troops were encircling it as engineering teams cleared booby traps.

A few hours later, military spokesman Brig. Gen. Yahya Rasool announced in a televised statement that Ramadi had been "fully liberated."

But Gen. Ismail al-Mahlawi, head of military operations in Anbar, quickly clarified that Iraqi forces had only retaken the government complex and that parts of the city remained under IS control. He said IS fighters still control 30 percent of Ramadi and that government forces do not fully control many districts from which IS fighters have retreated.

"The troops only entered the government complex," al-Mahlawi told The Associated Press. "We can't say that Ramadi is fully liberated. There are still neighborhoods under their control and there are still pockets of resistance."

Iraqi state TV showed troops, some waving Iraqi flags and others brandishing machine guns, chanting and dancing inside what it described as the government complex. Soldiers could be seen slaughtering sheep in celebration near heavily damaged buildings.

Col. Steve Warren, a U.S. military spokesman in Baghdad, told AP that "today's success is a proud moment for Iraq."