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## Oakland County not immune to tornado's twist

The recent deadly tornadors in the South killed at least 37 people and grabbed the headlines, but Dakland County is not immune to such disasters.

which disasters.

In fact, late winter and early spring are the most likely times for tornadoes in this area.

"At this time of year you have a lot, of milder sir coming in and still a lot of cold sir coming from the north," said Bill Baboock of the National Weather Service in White Lake Township, "Mother Nature abbox differences."

Babcock said while Farmington

and Farmington Hills aren't in a high-volume area for tornadoes, they are near one of the state's three worst areas for the disasters. One of the areas is in Kent County, near Grand Rapids and one is along the state's southern border (Lenawec County especially). But the other area extends from Genesee County southeast to northern Oakland County. "In fact, the last tornado to kill over 100 people was the Beecher tornado in 1953 in southern Genesee County)." Babcock said. Although no one in Michigan

See TWISTERS, 7A

## Twister tips help residents set sights on safety

Here are some tornado safety

tips:

Have emergency supplies on hand during tomado season.

- Keep a battery-operated radio, a flashlight and a supply of fresh batteries in a convenient place.
- Know the location of designated shelter areas in public buildings such as schools and shopping

- noid turnishings and other pos-cessions.

  Be sure everyone in your house-hold knows in advance where to go and what to do in case of a tor-nado warning.

  When a tornado threatens:
- Stay away from doors, windows and outside walls. Protect your head.

- hold furnishings and other posessions.

  Be sure everyone in your household knows in advance where to go and what to do in case of a tor-
  - In mobile homes or vehicles, leave them and go to the nearest shelter or lie in a ditch and shield your head with your arms. After a tornado:
- In homes and small buildings, Inspect your property, includ-go to the basement or to an interi-ing vehicles, for damage. Check

- Secure your property from fur-ther damage or theft.
- Use only approved or chlorinated supplies of drinking water.
- Check food supplies. Some food may contain particles of glass or debris.

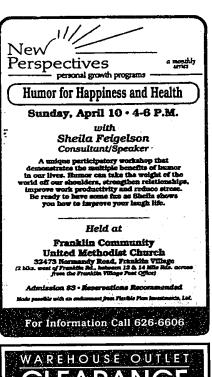
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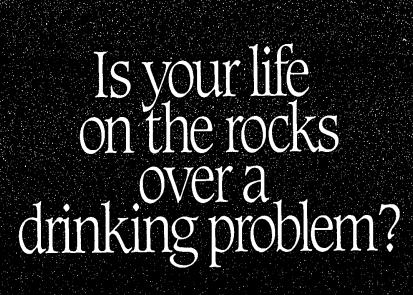
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