

North Side Building Collapses During Storm

About an inch of rain fell on the St. Louis area early Saturday morning during a thunderstorm that police said had caused a vacant building to collapse in north St. Louis.

The building, at 2501 Prairie Avenue, was a small church with an apartment upstairs, police said. "The rain just made it fall in," said officer Charles Beal of the Penrose District station.

He said the building had been unoccupied for about two years. Neighbors called police to report the collapse about 5 a.m. Saturday.

In St. Louis County, police reported

that the thunderstorm had produced fluctuations in electricity that set off burglar alarms in various locations.

Police reported 14 false alarms at businesses in Bridgeton between 1 a.m. and 5 a.m. Saturday. About five false alarms were reported in Creve Coeur.

Scattered power outages were reported Saturday night in Walnut Park and other north St. Louis neighborhoods and in the Northwest Plaza shopping center in St. Ann. Outages were reported Saturday morning in Hanley Hills and in Rock Hill, where a tree limb had fallen on a

power line.

Heavy rain also pelted central Missouri, causing flash flooding in some areas. About 1 inch fell in Columbia, where several streets were reported under water temporarily, a National Weather Service spokesman said. The flooding was gone by midmorning, police said.

The St. Louis area received a total of 1.15 inches of rain in intermittent showers Saturday. Up until Friday, only 0.28 inches of rain had fallen here this month, the weather service said. That compares with an average rainfall of 2.56 inches, to date, in June.

At the same time that the eastern and southeastern parts of Missouri were experiencing bone-dry conditions, the western and northwestern parts of the state were hit with heavy rain and flooding.

A severe thunderstorm watch was in effect Saturday night in the St. Louis area and southwest Illinois. But these storms should be the last hurrah of the recent hot, muggy weather, the weather service said. Cooler, drier weather is expected to follow the rain. Sunday should be pleasant, with sunshine and highs in the mid- to upper 80s and lows in the 60s.

70 Abortion Fees Turned Away From Clinic

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Sun, Jul 2, 2017