Hurricane Outlook: Another Busy Season

BY SETH BORENSTEIN

AP Science Writer

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — Get ready for another busy hurricane season, maybe an unusually wild one, federal forecasters say.

Their prediction Thursday calls for 13 to 20 named Atlantic storms, seven to 11 that strengthen into hurricanes and three to six that become major hurricanes.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said there is a 70 percent chance that this year will be more active than an average hurricane season.

If you live in hurricane prone areas along the Atlantic Ocean or Gulf of Mexico, "This is your warning," said acting NOAA administrator Kathryn Sullivan.

The season starts June 1 and lasts through November. A normal year has 12 named storms, six hurricanes and three major storms with winds over 110 mph.

Last year was the third-busiest on record with 19 named storms. Ten became hurricanes and two were major storms, including Sandy, even though it lost hurricane status when it made landfall in New Jersey.

The only storm to make it ashore in the U.S. as a hurricane was Isaac, which ended up in Louisiana at 80 mph after hitting the Caribbean and threatening the Republican convention in Tampa, Fla

This year, all the factors that go into hurricane forecasts are pointing to an active season, or an extremely active one, said lead forecaster Gerry Bell of the Climate Prediction Center.

Those factors include: warmer

An active storm season



Hurricanes **7 to 11**Major hurricanes **3 to 6**Category 3 or higher

than average ocean waters that provide fuel for storms, a multidecade pattern of increased hurricane activity, the lack of an El

13 to 20

Predicted for 2013

Named storms

Africa.

The Atlantic hurricane season goes through cycles of high and low activity about every 25 to 40 years based on large scale climatic patterns in the atmosphere.

Nino warming of the central Pa-

cific Ocean, and an active pattern

of storm systems coming off west

A high activity period started around 1995, Sullivan said.

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Source: National Oceanic and Atmosperic Administration

Average Atlantic season

Named storms

12

Major hurricanes 3

Hurricanes 6

Ocean water is about 0.8 degrees Fahrenheit warmer than normal, but it's not as high as it has been in other active years, Bell said.

The forecasts don't include where storms might land, if any place. Despite the formation of more hurricanes recently, the last time a major hurricane made landfall in the United States was Wilma in 2005. That seven-year stretch is the longest on record.

Changes in weather patterns, especially the jet stream, have created fronts that in recent years tended to push many of the bigger storms away, Bell said.

But just because a storm is not technically classified major with 111 mph winds or more, doesn't mean it can't do lots of damage. Sandy is evidence of that; it killed 147 people and caused \$50 billion in damage.

Forecasters this summer expect to see improvements in their calculations on how much a storm will strengthen or weaken, National Weather Service Director Louis Uccellini said. That's because the National Hurricane Center will start using a new system that incorporates real-time radar from planes flying through storms into computer forecast models.

Meteorologists have had the most difficulty predicting changes in the intensity of storms.

Bell, who has been making these seasonal forecasts for 15 years, said his accuracy rate is about 70 percent. But last year, his predictions were far too low. He forecast nine to 15 named storms and four to eight hurricanes. There were 19 named storms and 10 hurricanes.

During the six-month season, forecasters name tropical storms when top winds reach 39 mph; hurricanes have maximum winds of at least 74 mph.

This year's names: Andrea, Barry, Chantal, Dorian, Erin, Fernand, Gabrielle, Humberto, Ingrid, Jerry, Karen, Lorenzo, Melissa, Nestor, Olga, Pablo, Rebekah, Sebastien, Tanya, Van and Wendy.

New Rules For Labeling Meat Go Into Effect

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Shoppers in the U.S. will soon have more information about where their meat comes from after new federal labeling rules went into effect Thursday.

The rules require labels on steaks, ribs and other cuts of meat to say where the animal was born, raised and slaughtered. Earlier U.S. Department of Agriculture rules only required that countries of origin to be noted, so a package might say "Produce of U.S. and Canada." Now, the label will specify "Born in Canada, raised and slaughtered in the United

The new rules apply only to cuts of meat such as steaks and roasts, not to ground meat.

The USDA has required country of origin labels on seafood since 2005 and on meat and other products since 2009. The new rules for meat are meant to bring the U.S. in line with World Trade Organization standards after the organization determined the old labels discriminated against livestock imported from Canada and Mexico.

President Barack Obama's administration had asked the meat industry in 2009 to voluntarily provide the additional information on labels. The new requirements come after the WTO's appeals body in June upheld the organization's earlier decision.

The meat industry and grocery stores have protested the changes, saying they are a hassle and could lead to higher prices. The National Grocers Association issued a statement expressing its "strong frustration" over what it sees as "unnecessary" regulation.

"The costs of this new change will far exceed the benefits intended and will result in no meaningful consumer benefits," the group's president and CEO, Peter Larkin, said in a statement. "Congress must take action now and create a legislative fix."

The USDA estimates the labeling change will cost somewhere between \$53.1 million and \$192.1 million to put in place. The National Grocers Association said it expected it to cost at least \$100 million as companies buy new signs, labels and labeling machines.

Cargill, one of the nation's largest meatpackers, protested the rules in a letter sent previously to the USDA. It said the U.S. is heavily dependent on cattle born elsewhere but sent to feedlots and slaughterhouses here, and that was more true after last year's drought dropped the U.S. herd to

its lowest level in decades.

Cargill said it had already idled a meatpacking plant in Texas because too few cattle were available and the problem would only get worse as imported cattle became less attractive to companies seeking to avoid the need for multiple labels.

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association said it didn't think the rules would satisfy Canada and Mexico, the nation's top trading partners, and it feared retaliation with taxes or other restrictions on U.S. beef.

"While trying to make an untenable mandate fit with our international trade obligations, USDA chose to set up U.S. cattle producers for financial losses," the association said in a statement. "Moreover, this rule will place a greater record-keeping burden on producers, feeders and processors through the born, raised and harvested label."

Teen

From Page 1A

gation, joining fellow teen activists Madison Larimore of Bellevue and Claudia Millan of Schuyler, along with other No Limits members.

"I was surprised that I was chosen, because of my age and because I didn't know how many were going," Peitz said.

Peitz spent three days in New York City: traveling the first day, taking part in training the second day and participating in the demonstration on the third day.

The goal was to raise awareness of the tobacco company's increased marketing emphasis on developing countries, said No Limits project coordinator Jessi Huenink. A worldwide increase of death and disease has resulted from the promotion and sale of its products to youth around the world.

"In the United States alone, the tobacco industry spends \$1 million every minute marketing its products," Huenink said. "Madison, Claudia and Addison have been fighting tobacco's influence in Nebraska — and we're excited to have them on our team to take this fight to the national and international level. It will take action and hard work to reverse the global tobacco crisis, but we're ready to fight."

Peitz was among 52 youth assembled outside the Grand Hyatt-New York hotel to greet shareholders as they entered and exited the meeting.

Many of the youth carried signs emblazoned with the demonstration's theme "We've Seen Enough" and messages about the tobacco company's global marketing strategy. Larimore and Millan continued their demonstration inside the hotel.

The meeting was held at a downtown business center next to Grand Central Station, Peitz said.

"We were there (on the street) at 8 a.m., and we stayed there for five hours," she said. "We chanted and tried to talk to the shareholders as they walked in (the building). They were looking at us like, 'What are these kids doing?' But it was really important that we talk to them, because investors don't always pay attention to what they are investing their money into."

The protesters were allowed to demonstrate but were given space limitations, Peitz said.

"We had a little spot where we had to stay during the demonstration," she said. "We had a cop assigned to watch us, which was scary."

The young protesters also drew a wide range of reactions from passersby on the street.

"Some people supported us and understood what we were doing. Other people ignored us because they didn't think what we were doing was important," she said. "When people passed us by, we would shake it off and talk to the next person."

Some of the protesters went inside and attended the meeting, seeking to make their point where possible, Peitz said. She remained outside, engaging passersby and handing out information.

"We pointed out key facts to each person," she said. "We showed how, on TV and commercials, (tobacco companies) choose young people and make (tobacco use) look fun. They don't mention the side effects in their advertisements."

Peitz also sought to show the life-and-death impact of tobaccouse

"I was just giving the straight facts to people," she said. "I

showed how many people die in this country from tobacco. We wanted to open people's eyes about tobacco."

Besides the training and

demonstration, Peitz said she also benefited from networking and bonding with teens and leaders from across the country. "We worked with kids from

"We worked with kids from different states," she said. "They shared what they had done in their states, so we got a couple of ideas from them that I would like to do as projects."

Peitz already looks forward to another demonstration.

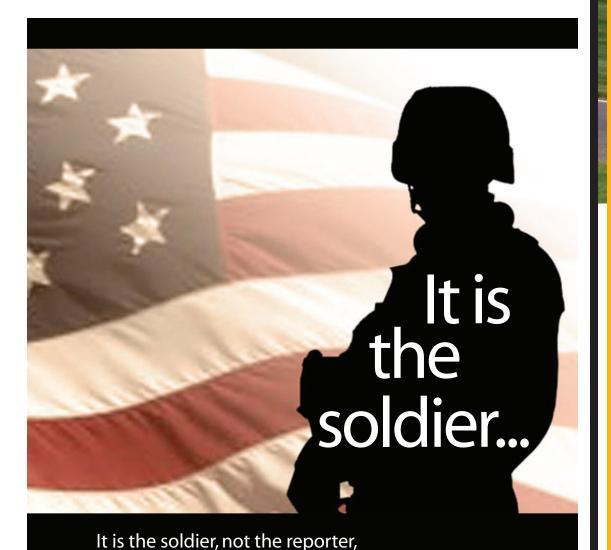
"I want to continue doing this as long as I can," she said. "I would love to go back (to NYC). It was a great experience. We accomplished many great things."

Smarter Bolder Faster

For more information about No Limits, the youth board and upcoming events, visit online at www.nolimitsnebraska.com or contact Huenink at 866-394-8336 (866-FYI-TEEN) or info@nolimitsnebraska.com.

You can follow Randy Dockendorf on Twitter at twitter.com/RDockendorf





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Who has given us freedom of speech.
It is the soldier, not the campus organizer,
Who has given us the freedom to demonstrate.
It is the soldier,
Who salutes the flag,
Who serves beneath the flag,
And whose coffin is draped by the flag,

Who allows the protester to burn the flag.



Century 21 Real Estate Revs Up Its' Marketing with IndyCar Team Sponsorship in Indianapolis 500

Century 21 Real Estate is teaming up with the Sarah Fisher Hartman racing team along with driver Joset Newgarden. Newgarden's Dallara/Honda/Firestone car will forgo its traditional No.67 in favor of No.21, the world's largest real estate sales organization's signature number, for the "Greatest Spectacle in Racing."

The 97th running of the Indianapolis 500 will take place on May 26, and be broadcast on ABC television.

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