

# The Living Room Times

All the Noise that's fit to print

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6:00 PM EDITION

## Too soon to tell

### Storm may hit us or miss us Thursday

*Adollyan Weather Service, Play Porch*-There might be a storm. It might zip up the east coast. It might bring lots and lots of snow. It might be one of the biggest storms of the year. It might wreak havoc all across the northeast United States.

It might not.

Despite all the hype and hoopla, our next potential winter storm doesn't even have a name yet. Its designation is PM-1. It may miss us completely.

Winter Storm PM-1 is forming in the western United States, preparing to sink south to the Gulf of Mexico, strengthen, and move onward.

Move onward to where? No one is quite sure yet.

But regardless of the actual prospect, this storm is stirring up a lot of commotion everywhere. It seems everyone has heard about it, and wants to know where it's going to go and what it's going to do.

The problem is, all the weather forecasters would like to know those things too.

Nor'easters, as this storm may become (of course it may not), are, by nature, unpredictable. No one knows exactly what they want to do until they do what they want to do. For now, all Storm PM-1 wants to do is leave us all hanging.

This storm is not a nor'easter yet. It isn't really a major storm yet. It's a storm, but not a whopper. The thing about nor'easters is that they develop rather quickly.

The typical characteristics of nor'easters are very heavy snow and heavy accumulations, winds exceeding gale force and sometimes reaching 70 mph, and coastal flooding from the winds on the shore. The combination of cold air and heavy snow can sometimes cause blizzard conditions.

Nor'easters typically gain strength over the warm waters of the Gulf of Mexico. The trickiest thing to forecast about nor'easters are their tracks. To actually retain the name nor'easter, a storm must move north-northeast, passing **east** of Cape Cod. The wind, wrapping counterclockwise around the center of the storm, blows out of the northeast. Thus, the name nor'easter.

These gulf coast storms have several other tracks they can take. One is to move inland in the south and then move north. The ocean waters do not provide the strength the storms need to become monsters. A storm following this track can provide significant snow, ice, and rain to the east, but not as much as a true nor'easter. Another track is for the storm to move north over the water, then turn inland and hit somewhere near New York or Long Island. This track can lead to a huge mess of sloppy ice and slush in the northeast, as the winds come up from the south. Heavy snow is likely to fall in western New York and Pennsylvania from such a coastal storm. The last, and probably most favorable track for New England snow-haters is for the storm to pass completely out to sea south of New England. No precipitation falls at all.

Because there are so many variables, including not only track but strength and temperature, these storms are very difficult to track. So, we might get hit by a whopper Thursday.

Or we might not.

Stay tuned.

## Mouse sighted in Mr. Spitzer's Room

**Room 204, MKMS**—Maybe Team Three should have a mouse for a mascot.

The persistent resident of the seventh grade classrooms and corridor made another appearance today, scurrying into Room 204 and causing a bit of panic and confusion during Mr. Spitzer's last two classes of the day, Science-2 and Spelling.

The mouse, who was given several names including "Mickey" and "Pancho Gonzalez" during his appearance in Room 203 earlier in year, has been sighted several times since in Room 201 and 202. He showed up today to stir things up in Mr. Spitzer's room, and that he did. Between screaming, yelling, crawling, and pointing, everything was what it shouldn't be by 1:30 PM.

The mouse was first sighted in Mr. Spitzer's closet around 1:25. Mr. Spitzer looked through the closet, found nothing, and class was back to normal for a while.

There were several mouse sightings. Michael Connelly saw the mouse poking his head out under the closet at 1:32, as did Brendan at 1:33. At 1:33, Mr. Spitzer got a big brown bucket to trap the mouse, but admitted that he probably wouldn't be able to. The mouse was too fast.

When he finally emerged, the mouse ran under Mr. Spitzer, and hid. Mr. Spitzer looked for the rodent, without luck.

The mouse made his most dramatic appearance at 1:47, during Spelling

class, running past Mr. Spitzer and right near Kim Pina and Beth Melewski.

"The mouse went over there," said Beth, pointing to the floor under Kim's desk. "I jumped five feet."

The mouse scurried past Kim, who screamed as it passed, and hid under the sink. He was not found, and could not be reached for comment.

The saga continues.