The Newspaper and the Ruler

Get a piece of thin board about 5 cm wide and 60 cm long. Place the board on a table with about 25 cm sticking over the edge. Now take a sheet of newspaper and spread it out so that the part of the board on the table is completely covered. Next carefully press all the air from under the paper by stroking with your hands from the centre of the paper toward the edges. The success of this experiment depends on how well you remove the air from under the paper. When this has been done have someone strike a sharp blow with a stick near the extended end of the board. What happens? What does this show about air?