

Little damage reported as first storm of season hits Florida

CEDAR KEY, Fla. (AP) — The first tropical storm of the season raked northern Florida with rain and powerful wind gusts Tuesday but didn't blow up into a hurricane as forecasters had feared.

A hurricane warning that had been issued for more than 100 miles of Florida's gulf coast was downgraded to a tropical storm warning midmorning after Alberto's top sustained winds dropped to 50 mph, well below the 74 mph threshold for a hurricane.

"The big concern now is going to be shifting to the rainfall and the tornado threat as it moves along the southeastern (U.S.) coast line," said National Hurricane Center director Max Mayfield.

A flood watch was issued for southeastern South Carolina, where more than 5 inches of rain was possible. Forecasters said parts of Florida and southeastern Georgia could get 4 to 10 inches of rain — welcome news to crews that have been battling wildfires for weeks in several parched Florida counties.

Alberto was expected to make its official landfall later Tuesday in the state's Big Bend area, near the small town of Keaton Beach.

In Steinhatchee, a small fishing town in the Big Bend, life appeared to be quickly returning to normal.

"The locals consider this a mosquito breeze," said Bruce Tayco, 33, who works at a restaurant. "When it's a tropical storm, we don't even

consider it."

At 11 a.m. EDT, Alberto's center was just offshore of Keaton Beach and about 50 miles southeast of Tallahassee. The storm was moving northeast at about 9 mph. Minor problems such as downed tree limbs and street flooding were reported from Tampa Bay up to the Panhandle after a large part of the storm was already moving over Florida.

Some streets flooded near Crystal River, where residents gathered in calf-deep water and dropped sandbags in preparation for the afternoon high tide.

"We're trying to keep everybody from making waves," said Ron McNally, who stood outside his waterfront home urging passing motorists to slow down on the flooded street. "The water's right at the door. It can't take much more."

Statewide, about 21,000 homes and businesses were without power.

The new tropical storm warning issued by the hurricane center extended from Bayport northward and westward to the Chlockonee River, while all warnings south of Bayport were discontinued. Another tropical storm warning on the Atlantic side extended from Flagler Beach, Fla., north to South Santee River, S.C.

A wind gust of 60 mph was reported in Tampa before dawn, while a gust of about 50 mph was recorded

to the north in Cedar Key, meteorologists said. But Cedar Key City Commissioner Pat O'Neal said he was cautiously optimistic that the island village would miss the worst of Alberto, though high tide was still a concern.

"We dodged a bullet," O'Neal said.

Even though Alberto wasn't expected to become a major storm — it wasn't until it jumped from 50 mph to 70 mph in a three-hour period Monday that forecasters thought it might become a hurricane.

Gov. Jeb Bush signed a declaration of emergency allowing him to call up the National Guard and put laws against price gouging in place if necessary, and evacuation orders were posted for people in mobile homes or low-lying areas in at least five coastal counties including about 21,000 residents of Citrus, Levy and Taylor counties.

Homeowners gassed up their vehicles and stocked up on chain saws, plywood and other emergency supplies. Alberto also prevented the crew of space shuttle Discovery from flying Monday to the Kennedy Space Center from Houston for several days of dress rehearsals for their expected launch in July.

The tropical depression that produced Alberto formed Saturday.

Rexford youth to attend leadership camp

Rural Telephone and Nex-Tech will sponsor 20 area students to attend the Kansas Youth Leadership Academy (KYLA) camp held at Fort Hays State University this month.

KYLA is a statewide, comprehensive, and all-inclusive program designed to promote youth leadership development. The Academy Camps, previously known as the Kansas Youth Leadership Camp, promote positive

and healthy lifestyles, character building and leadership development.

Students who registered through Rural Telephone or Nex-Tech's Web sites were entered in a drawing from which 10 middle school students and 10 high school students were randomly chosen to attend the KYLA camps.

The 10 high school winners are Tate Bruggeman, Rexford; Emily Scott, Norton; Margarita Caulfield,

Russell; Austin Hartman, Hays; Caitlyn Schmidtberger, Victoria; Katie Carmichael, Plainville; Nolan Esfeld, Hoisington; Skye LeSage, Hill City; Blaine Samuelson, Quinter; and Kayde Malcolm, Gove.

Students are invited to attend a camp June 20-23. Highlights for campers include the opportunity to gain new skills and experiences in workshops and meet other student leaders from across the state.

Jerry Lewis has heart attack

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Comedian Jerry Lewis postponed a July engagement to perform live after suffering a heart attack Sunday that a casino spokeswoman described as "mild."

"At present, he is under hospital care and is expected to make a full recovery," said Candi Cazau, spokeswoman for the Orleans hotel-casino in Las Vegas, where Lewis was to perform July 13-16.

Lewis, 80, is also suffering from "a touch of pneumonia," Cazau said in a statement.

A call to Lewis' manager, Claudia Marghilano, was not returned Tuesday.

Last week, a wise-cracking Lewis appeared healthy at a news conference in Las Vegas when he announced his first return to live performances in five years after a battle with pulmonary fibrosis, a crippling lung ailment.

Lewis announced last week that he planned to direct a version of his hit 1963 comedy, "The Nutty Professor," as a musical on Broadway by October 2008.

Those plans have not changed, said executive producer Ned McLeod.

CLASSIFIEDS

Pets/Supplies	Garage Sales
Purebred Boxer puppies. first shots, tails docked and dew claws, \$200. 785-675-2244. ---6/14-6/26---	1040 Wheatridge Rd. Friday 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. Multi family. 4 wheelers, paddle boat, TV's, gas range, microwave, furniture, girls' clothing 0-8 years. ---6/14-6/16---
Border Collie/Heeler cross puppies to country home. Seven weeks, nice markings, well loved, \$40. 785-462-7818. ---6/14-6/19---	815 S. Grant Ave. Friday 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Crib, wedding dress, mower, grill, toys, misc. ---6/14 & 6/15---
AKC registered German Shorthaired Pointer pup, 10 weeks old, good line of hunters. 785-460-6749. ---6/9-6/15---	580 N. Franklin Ave. Good Shepherd Thrift Store. Tuesday - Friday noon - 5:00 p.m., Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Best trailer load ever just arrived. ---6/14-6/16---
AKC German Shorthair pups. 6 adorable males, first shots, dew claws, tails, \$150. 785-460-8002/785-462-6836. ---6/9-6/15---	375 E. Walnut St. Friday 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. Saturday 8:00 - 11:00 a.m. Multi family. Women's, men's, children's clothing - name brands including GAP, Lucky, and Calvin Klein, nice home decor items, bedding, pots and pans, bake sale and more. ---6/14-6/16---
Registered purebred male Beagle pup. 7 months old, housbroken, great pet, loves people. Call 785-443-1339. ---6/8-6/21---	Community wide garage sale, Oakley, KS. Saturday, June 17, 8:00 a.m. Maps available at One Stop, Kabredlo's, Oakley Shurefine Foods and at each location. Quality items, approximately 40 locations. Phone 785-672-4862 for details. ---6/5-6/16---
4AKC Boxer puppies. 1 fawn female, 1 brindle male. Call evenings at 785-543-7597 or 785-282-0108. ---6/1-6/14---	

Lost and Found
Found: 3-5 month old male Welsh Corgi Saturday morning. Call 460-3627 or 462-0808. ---6/14-6/16---

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