Frances leaves millions without power

Flooding cited across state

By MIKE GIMIGNANI
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SARASOTA — As Frances, downgraded Sunday from a hurricane to a tropical storm, pounded the Florida peninsula, it left indelible marks on area residents still picking up the pieces left by Hurricane Charley.

About 3 million Floridians were left without power as a result of winds that downed trees, limbs and power lines throughout the state.

Florida officials said Tuesday that power wouldn’t fully be restored for about a week, and they told residents to avoid traveling so supplies of fuel and food could be shipped to hard-hit areas.

“The people need to be back to the supplies, or else there are going to be scenes,” Lt. Gov. Toni Jennings said. Florida Chief Financial Officer Tom Gallagher estimated Frances’ insured damage Tuesday at a range of approximately $2 billion to $4 billion.

Water invades UF dorms

By BRIDGET CAREY
Alligator Writer
bcarey@alligator.org

Towels tried hold it back, vacuums tried to suck it up, and buckets in the middle of hallways tried to catch it, but nothing could stop leaks from spreading in student residence halls this weekend.

Days of rain from Tropical Storm Frances, downgraded from a hurricane Sunday, led to water damage in residence halls, with Beaty Towers and Fletcher Hall getting the worst of the damage.

Beaty Towers was plagued with damage as water crept through the crevice where the floor meets the wall in many bedrooms.

“Just kept spreading,” said Scot Seplowe, a freshman living on the second floor of Beaty West.

Seplowe, along with his roommate, freshman Steve Jacobs, both tried to halt the flow with towels, but they said as the rain continued there was no stopping the water soaking both of their bedrooms and kitchen.

Rooms had varying degrees of water damage, and the top floor of Beaty West suffered extensive ceiling damage.

Water seeped from the carpet with every step that freshmen Erin Hoeft and Becky Ramsay took in their bedroom on the 14th floor of Beaty West.

Water came through the window and from underneath the closet every time it rained, Ramsay said.

“We were told everyone’s room is worse than ours, and they don’t know if they can do anything,” Hoeft said. She added she was worried about Ramsay’s asthma condition if mold grows because of the water.

HURRICANE FRANCES
Storm leaves 3 dead

By ADRIAN URBARRI and JAMES VANLANDINGHAM
Alligator Writers

Three deaths in Alachua County were attributed to Tropical Storm Frances this weekend after the powerful storm, downgraded from hurricane status Sunday, whipped through the area, delivering 60-mph winds and more than 10 inches of rain.

UF graduate James Schwartz of Atlanta died after his Mitsubishi Spyder hydroplaned into a tree at 11 a.m. Sunday on Interstate 75. Schwartz’s car was found twisted around a tree and partly submerged under a pool of water in the median. He had serious traumatic injuries, and squall winds hampered rescue efforts, Hughes said.

While trying to pull Schwartz from the car with the jaws of Life under sheets of rain, hydraulic fluid squirted into the eyes of both Alachua County firefighter Justin Lagotic and Micanopy firefighter Mike Lawrence. Both officers were treated on the scene and returned later.

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A sailboat run aground by Tropical Storm Frances, downgraded Sunday from hurricane status, sits on shore near Melbourne, Fla., on Monday morning.
Hurricane holiday won't be made up
UF students, faculty and staff have got a five-day weekend thanks to Hurricane Frances, and so far, there's no catch. The state of Florida requires 200 school days in a year, but the UF Registrar's Office pads the academic schedule with about eight extra days to make sure they don't miss that mark, said Assistant Registrar Rick Ragan. Additionally, commencement already has been rescheduled and making up hurricane days would delay it.

— STEPHANIE GARRY

SG qualifying deadline pushed to end of week
Student Government parties and Senate hopefuls have more time to register for fall elections on Sept. 28 to 29 thanks to Hurricane Frances.

No date and time have been set yet, but Student Body President Jamal Sowell said the deadline likely will be either Thursday or Friday.

"I know it will be extended for sure," Sowell said.

The initial deadline was Tuesday, before classes were canceled that day and Friday because of the hurricane.

The Access and Student Alliance parties are the only parties officially approved to exist for the elections so far. Paperwork for approval of the Voice Party was being processed Thursday.

"This whole storm has thrown people off, and it's thrown off the timing of everything," Sowell said.

— BRIDGET CAREY

Pataki's speech postponed
New York Gov. George Pataki's speech at UF commencing the commemorating of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks will be rescheduled because of Hurricane Frances.

His speech, entitled, "United We Stand: A Vision for the Future," originally was scheduled for Tuesday in the Stephen C. O'Connell Center. Although has not been set, Accent Party Chairman David Buchalter said he was confident the governor would be able to come.

Pataki will be paid $25,000 and receive first-class travel and accommodations to relate his experiences as governor after the attacks.

— EMILY YEHELE

CHOICES recount should be finished by weekend
Hurricane Frances had little impact on the vote recount for the CHOICES healthcare initiative. County officials still expect to have definite answers on the results by this weekend.

At its Tuesday meeting, the Alachua County Canvassing Board decided to hold the recount Friday to resolve the only remaining issue from the Aug. 31 primary election. One issue brought up was the county's "ability to make hundreds of phone calls," said Supervisor of Elections Beverly Hill about recruiting volunteers for an all-day recount after the damaging storm.

Having originally considered Thursday to hold the recount, the board again decided to postpone until Friday to allow more volunteers to enlist. But the storm may have affected communication between county offices.

The county Public Information Office reported no meetings would take place Tuesday until Hill walked over with a copy of the meeting agenda.

CHOICES stands for Community Health Offering Innovative Care and Education Services, a healthcare system for the "working uninsured" supported by a seven-year, quarterly county sales tax.

The current vote count for CHOICES stands at 18,743 for the initiative and 18,655 against, a difference of 88 votes, or 0.23 percent. Since the margin of victory was less than 0.5 percent, a recount is mandatory.

Hill said there was no damage to ballots or equipment from the storm.

"Of course, I'd have liked to have not done [the recount]," Hill said. "But there's nothing I can do to get out of it."

— MIKE GIMIGNANI

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The Alligator is a nonprofit educational organization. The Alligator works with the Newspaper Association of America, National Newspaper Association, Florida Press Association and Southern University Newpapers.

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Disney exec tapped to fill new vice president post

By MEGAN SEERY
Alligator Writer
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UF's first vice president of university relations takes office next month in a position meant to raise the university's profile.

Jane Adams, Walt Disney World vice president of government relations, will join the president's Cabinet on Oct. 1, administrators announced Thursday.

Adams, a Winter Haven resident, will act as UF's chief spokeswoman and will market the university.

Additional responsibilities include coordinating UF's lobbying efforts and seeking government funding.

When UF President Bernie Machen revealed his plans to dissolve the vice president positions for public relations and government relations to create the university relations job in March, he said it required a business background and was not an academic-type job.

Gail Baker, former UF vice president of public relations, became special assistant to the president for diversity; and Richard Bucciarelli, former UF vice president of government relations, returned to a post in the Health Science Center.

Paul Robell, vice president of development and alumni affairs, chaired the search committee. The search, which ended Aug. 31, took almost five months to complete, he said.

"She had the best mix of all the candidates of both public relations and government relations experience," Robell said. "I think those were the major factors."

He added the search firm that screened the applicants received more than 80 inquiries about the position.

"We liked her personality and her approach to things," he said. "We quizzed her on how she would handle various situations and were very impressed."

UF Administration

 Degrees in journalism and political science from Iowa State University helped Adams land her first public relations job at Better Homes and Gardens magazine.

Politics was a hobby that led to her employment under two U.S. senators from Alaska — Republicans Ted Stevens and Frank Murkowski.

But Adams had connections to Gainesville too — her husband graduated with a finance degree from UF in 1974.

"Once you are married to a Gator, you are a Gator," said Adams, who added she's attended several UF football games.

Although she has no immediate plans for her new position, Adams said she's eager to get a feel for the university.

"I'm anxious to develop all the relationships I can as quickly as I can," she said. "I want to get to know people."
HURRICANE FRANCES

Students flood downtown to usher in long weekend

By NICK WEIDENMILLER and EMILY YEHELE
Alligator Writers

While Hurricane Frances tore its way toward Gainesville, hundreds of miniskirts and khakis lined the sidewalks of University Avenue on Thursday night.

Cups filled with beer, shots and mixed drinks crowded tables, bars and floors.

And sweating, writhing bodies crammed dance floors as students celebrated the cancellation of Friday classes.

Instead of preparing for the then-forecasting Hurricane Frances on Thursday night, thousands of students ventured downtown for clubs and bars while also stocking up on beer.

UF law students congregated at Durty Nelly's Irish Pub for the law school's annual pub crawl; the bar was their third stop of the night.

Law student Rainer Schmidt sat in the pub, pressed against a table by the crowd. Although one of his friends "chickened out" and fled to Colorado, he said he was going to drink throughout the hurricane weekend.

This year the event was well-attended, perhaps because of Friday's canceled classes, said Robyn Moore, a law student who has attended the event for the last three years.

"It was going to die anyway, so we might as well have a good time, drinking with our friends," he joked, as he finished his first pint of the three pitchers of beer he planned to drink that night.

That car was driven by another man described only as a heavyset white male, he said.

While hardwre and home improvement stores ran out of wood and duct tape, local residents also made sure they had sufficient beer and liquor as the storm loomed.

Brew-Ha's Beer & Pizza Delivery was busy over the weekend, mostly with the sales of kegs, owner Brian Oen said. Some people bought four kegs at a time, a sharp contrast from the normal sale of one or two kegs, he said.

By Jared Leone and Nick Weidenmiller
Alligator Writers

A joke refers to Gainesville as a drinking town with a football problem.

With Saturday's "problem" canceled because of Hurricane Frances, weekend partiers quickly began planning "hurricane parties."

"I just called a bunch of people and said we were going to have a good time."  Vince Ryan

UF political science junior Jason High said his hurricane party started Thursday when he learned Friday classes were canceled.

"It's going to be a four-day thing," he said of the event Friday.

While partying, residents stocked up on bottled water before they went out.

UF student Brian Frankel began partying Thursday night.

"I had a 150-decibel sound system which kept partiers at his house amped all weekend," Ryan said. "I just called a bunch of people and said we are going to have a good time."  Ryan said of his house party at Northwest 7th Avenue and Northwest 34th Street.

More than 40 guests helped polish off two kegs during the party, which ran from Friday through Monday.

"It was different from your regular party," Ryan said. "I don't even remember half the night."  SFCC student Erik Heidt and some friends drove 90 minutes to check out waves off of St. Augustine beach.

"Every surfer gets excited about hurricanes because that means big surf," he said.

Students also surfed in Gainesville on wakeboards pulled by pickup trucks near Southwest 27th Street.

About 150 students, however, camped out at a shelter in the Reitz Union Grand Ballroom, studying and catching up on school work.

"I came down to escape the hurri- cane and was ready to "drink and party down."  Travis Crew, a Kush N' Carry employee, said the liquor store located at 2020 SW 34th St., did $10,000 of business Thursday, twice as much as usual.

"I don't really care about my apartment," he said. "It's not mine."  Dennis McClung, a bartender and promoter for Faces Lounge, said it was hard to take the hurricane seriously.

"It's not going to affect business if it hits," he said.

On Thursday, the threat of a hurricane didn't appear to affect business for the Bank and Lounge, where UF student Mark Urban joined a crowd of people waiting to get in.

The wobbling Urban, who said he had consumed at least three shots of tequila and six sake bombs, a mix of beer and the Japanese wine, said he was planning to drink all weekend.

"Frances doesn't scare me," he said.

Keggers greet Frances

By JARED LEONE

"WHILE MANY PARTIED,
SOME STUDENTS SPENT THEIR
TIME OFF STUDYING."

By JARED LEONE

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UF political science junior Jason High said his hurricane party started Thursday when he learned Friday classes were canceled.

"It's going to be a four-day thing," he said of the event Friday.

Many UF and SFCC students found ways to keep busy as 60-mph winds ripped through Alachua County on Sunday by either catching waves, partying or studying.

Another party host, SFCC student Vince Ryan, said he had a 150-decibel sound system which kept partiers at his house amped all weekend.

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PUBLIC SAFETY

Unarmed robber on the run

Gainesville Police still were searching Tuesday for a man believed to be responsible for robbing a Wachovia Bank at 3501 W University Ave. at 9:38 a.m. Thursday.

GPD spokesman Keith Kameg said the suspect entered the bank, demanded money, reports show.

When the suspect left the bank, he was observed driving a gray Toyota Camry in the direction of Museum Road. He described his vehicle as having a man with dark, shoulder-length hair.

He then fled the scene in a dark green or black car that looked to witnesses like a Toyota Camry, Kameg said.

That car was driven by another man described only as a heavyset white male, he said.

Kameg described the suspect as an unshaven white male in his 30s with dark, shoulder-length hair.

He stands 5 feet 10 inches to 6 feet tall, weighs 220 to 240 pounds, and was seen last wearing a dark baseball cap and a dark-colored shirt.

A bank security camera captured images of the suspect, who was not masked during the robbery.

Anyone with information about the case is asked to call GPD Detective Joe Serin at 304-3136.

POLICE SEEK SUSPECTS IN LAKESIDE ROBBERY: A UF student was robbed near his Lakeside Residence Hall apartment at about 1:25 a.m. on Friday, according to reports.

Bradley Gies, 18, told University Police that he was approached behind by two men, one of whom struck him and demanded money, reports show.

After Gies walked away, one of the men brandished a handgun and commanded him to empty his pockets.

Gies refused the demand, according to a release, and the two suspects fled in the direction of Museum Road. He described his attackers as two black males, each about 5 feet 10 inches, 150 pounds and wearing dark, short-sleeve T-shirts.

While the suspects were talking to each other during the altercation, Gies reportedly heard them call each other "Weezey" and "BeeGee."

Anyone with information about the crime is asked to contact UFD at 392-1111.
Asian Student Union holds rally, calls for changes

By STEPHANIE GARRY
Alligator Writer
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The Asian Student Union kicked off the school year Thursday with an assembly that looked much like a political rally.

ASU, an umbrella organization over seven Asian-American student groups, convened in the University Memorial Auditorium in a showcase of dancing, poetry and skits – but also to hammer home a call to action under the theme “Move Something!”

“Asian Americans need to have a voice,” ASU president Mark Villegas told the audience. “You are the change this university needs.”

ASU has plenty it wants to change. First, the group wants to get an Asian-American studies certificate in the liberal arts curriculum. Then, it wants a staff member, similar to the director of the Institute of Black Culture, to handle counseling and programs for Asian-American students. Finally, it wants an Institute of Asian-American Culture.

“I think there is a demand for it, and if there is a demand the university has a responsibility to meet that demand,” Student Body Treasurer Dennis Ngin said of the certificate.

Villegas also urged Asian Americans to overcome stereotypes.

Eugene Zdziarski and Mary Kay Schneider, dean and associate dean of students, encouraged students in their struggle for resources.

Speaker Lela Lee told the audience about how she turned her experiences as a misunderstood Asian-American woman into a successful cartoon, “Angry Little Girls.”

“The ride I was on was started by the truth of my experience,” she said about her venture.

ASU’s seven umbrella organizations performed choreographed dances for the crowd of nearly 780 people.

Ngin said he hoped the assembly would kindle interest among freshmen and educate students about the many objectives of the year.

“It’s the perfect time for change at every level of the university,” Ngin said.

County fire chief: First time emergency management office tested in five years

FATALITIES, from page 1

Sunday to duty.

“That’s why, when we ask people to heed warnings to stay off roadways, it’s because we’re also looking out for our public safety officials who must respond to any emergency needs,” Hughes said.

In Newberry on Sunday, 61-year-old Rose Marie Hall died instantly when an oak tree crashed her mobile home, situated at 7107 NW 200th Terrace.

Alachua County Sheriff’s Office spokesman Jim Troiano said Hall was talking with husband Herschel Hall and her parents, Walter and Vera Malot, in the living room when the tree struck the home.

Jacqueline T. McGriff, 87, of 1674 NW 19th Circle, died as a result of smoke inhalation when candles she had lighted in her bedroom set her mattress on fire.

Her body was discovered Monday morning by her son, John T. McGriff.

Jacqueline was an active member of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church on Northeast First Street.

“She was a very authentic person, and there was never any pretense about her,” said the Rev. Gordon Tremaine, rector of the church.

ACFR Chief Will May said not all of Alachua County’s structures are built to withstand winds from a Category 2 hurricane, and some residents may have underestimated the storm’s danger because hurricanes don’t usually strike North Central Florida.

"This was the first time the emergency management office was tested in about five years," he said.

Gainesville Mayor Pegeen Hanrahan offered her condolences to mourning families.

“Every life that’s lost is a real tragedy,” she said.

Fourteen deaths in Florida and Georgia have been blamed on Frances.
Editorial

Machen’s time
President must live up to high expectations

Weeks before the one-year anniversary of his selection and 249 days after he first sat down in his Tigert Hall office, UF President Bernie Machen officially will be handed the helm. At a ceremony scheduled for noon Friday at the Stephen C. O’Connell Center, Machen will become the university’s 11th leader.

This is an “installation ceremony,” the same term used on a September weekend six years ago when the University of Utah empowered its 13th president.

Machen redefined Utah’s flagship university — and himself — during his tenure at the U. Many of the groundbreaking initiatives he pushed helped win him the top post here in Gainesville. In Utah, he fought for on-campus childcare for university employees and enacted a politically charged university union ban.

From the O’Connell Center stage, will Machen outline a similarly sweeping agenda for UF, calling for greater minority enrollment and local control of UF’s bargain-basement tuition?

It’s likely.

Known for his outspokenness while at Utah, Machen pointedly voiced his skepticism about online universities at his 1998 inauguration, a jab at then-Utah Gov. Mike Leavitt, a proponent of Web-based higher education. Will Machen take a swipe at the Florida Legislature for wielding control over the state’s university system?

That’s not certain.

Machen’s brief record at UF has been spotty but studied with glitters of promise. He has backed unnecessary tuition hikes and a controversial plan to implement pricey, one-size-fits-all block tuition, but he also has charged into arenas his predecessors were reluctant to enter.

Shortly after taking office, he stripped Public Relations Vice President Gail Baker of her title and made her his personal advisor for diversity. In a similarly bold move, Machen appointed Tamara Cohen as UF’s first director of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender affairs.

There have been disappointments — Machen’s student outreach largely has been limited to events stage-managed by Student Government, but this university places its faith in Machen because of the strength of his reputation.

Widespread change may not be popular, but UF’s leader proved at the U that he can withstand the firestorm that accompanies decisive leadership.

One-two punch

Hurricane Frances dealt a catastrophic blow this weekend, knocking Florida to the ground just as the scarred state was beginning to recover from Hurricane Charley’s impact. Residents have swiped into the hardest-hit areas, eager to help Frances’ victims get their lives back on track.

Federal assistance will wander the road back to normalcy. Amid the despair and chaos, there are signs of hope. Volunteers are serving meals to newly homeless Floridians and rescue workers. Relief agencies have swept into the region, eager to help Frances’ victims get their lives back in order.

The outpouring of aid will make this setback as temporary as possible, but it will never replace what Frances destroyed on its rampage through Florida.

Column

Senator trashes party, backs Bush

Zell Miller is more frustrated than an FSU student trying to do a jigsaw puzzle.

The Georgia senator’s source of anger, however, is not the usual political issues, but what he seems to think is an insulting campaign, an insulting mindset and insulting ideas put forth by the Democratic candidate and his party. Last week, Miller was not spitting his usual anti-Republican propaganda, reminiscent of his speech at the Democratic National Convention in 1992. Instead, he gave the keynote speech at the Republican National Convention, endorsing President Bush’s campaign, his term in office and his renomination for president.

Miller began his mockery of John Kerry and his campaign by deeming the ideals of today’s Democratic Party “warped” and asked, “What has happened to the party I’ve spent my life working in?”

Among the slams were two very important facts that, to the relief of the Democrats, previously had not been touched upon. The first is the claim that our soldiers are occupants rather than liberators. How many women relish the idea of being forced to obey their boyfriends? Well, in Saddam’s Iraq, women wouldn’t really even have a choice. They would have a husband to obey, no education, no rights and no freedom. How many athletes think they are being tortured at practice now? Does being beaten with weapons, starved for a bad practice or possibly killed for losing a game sound like the torture athletes incur at practices here?

Not exactly, right?

Now, in Iraq, those athletes play without the fear of death, small girls are in school instead of being forced to stay at home, and there is freedom for the Iraqi people. Some may blindly argue, “The war is so long, there are still problems,” but this sentiment is to be expected from a society spoiled with immediate gratification and, oh yeah, freedom.

It takes longer that sitting in the drive-thru at McDonald’s to establish a liberated country. Sorry.

To leave now, to just push this country into the river without a proverbial paddle, would be devastating. Miller hit the bull’s eye with that one.

However, the best, and possibly the truest, statement of his speech was when he announced, “No pair has been more wrong, more loudly, more often than the two senators from Massachusetts — Ted Kennedy and John Kerry.”

Aside from changing his mind more than J-Lo changes husbands, Miller highlighted the fact that Kerry has voted against spending money to send arms, and even body armor, to our troops in Iraq. For or against the war, there is no reason to deny our troops supplies. That does not help anyone’s cause.

Miller also was right when he said that it is OK to be wrong in the Senate. There are other people to offset the vote, and millions of lives may not be affected. As the president, however, there is a lot more at stake and a “yes-no-maybe bowl of mush,” as Miller put it, will not protect our country. He went on to say that two weeks of campaign rhetoric do not show the true views of a person as well as 20 years of voting in the Senate do. He is undoubtedly and completely correct.

“Campaign talk tells people who you want them to think you are,” Miller said. “How you vote (in the Senate) tells people who you really are deep inside.”

Couldn’t have said it better myself, Zell.

Lauren Flanagan is an English sophomore. Her column appears on Wednesdays.
Parents' evacuation wrecks calm before, during the storm

M y calm before the storm ended early Friday morning, just after midnight.

All evening, I had listened to television news reports about the 2.5 million Floridians who had been forced to flee their homes as Hurricane Frances lumbered toward shore. In the meantime, I was waiting for my own pair of evacuees: my parents.

"You look cheerful for two people about to lose their home," I said, greeting them at the door of my tiny College Park apartment.

"I'm a statistic," my dad replied.

Wearily, they hauled in luggage, canned goods and enough bottled water to float a battleship. The 350 square feet of my studio apartment quickly shrank.

"To get that real shelter feel, you'll be sleeping on the floor," I announced as my mom began unpacking. Undeterred, my dad slipped into my bed and switched off the light.

I slept on the floor all weekend. The destructive power of the oncoming storm escaped me until Friday evening, when my parents made a radical suggestion. These people, who launched a crusade against junk food when I was 5 and who still strictly prohibit Oreos from their cupboards, had suggested something nearly unthinkable: ordering a pizza.

They ordered two. Perplexed, I began rifling through the electricity, at least.

The three of us had nothing to do. Boredom took a toll.

Sunday afternoon, the end came — for Warren Kagarise.

Plunged into darkness, the three of us had nothing to do. "We can make shadow animals," my mom offered, brandishing a flashlight. "Look, I'll make a bunny." As Frances pulled itself ashore and began downing trees and power lines in my neighborhood, a call to my parents' answering machine confirmed their South Florida house hadn't even lost power.

Before the time they packed up and headed south Tuesday morning, I had moved past their premature evacuation.

With Hurricane Ivan swirling in the Caribbean, I staked an important claim: Next time, I told them, you're sleeping on the floor.
Millhoppin'

Gainesville sinkhole offers quiet escape

By LINDSAY DOWNEY
Alligator Writer
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It's been a long day.
No, a long week.
You desperately need to escape from the stress of organic chemistry, rush-hour traffic on Archer Road and flying hurricane debris.

After a short drive to northwest Gainesville, you find yourself in peaceful tranquility, surrounded by shady oak trees, lush greenery and flowing waterfalls.

Spotlight on the Swamp

Gushing water echoes all around you as birds chirp softly in the distance.

Devil's Millhopper Geological State Park, located at 4732 Millhopper Road just off of Northwest 43rd Street, is not only a national natural landmark, it's a place to take in fresh air and unwind.

Park ranger Janet Yesh, who has been working at the site for 18 years, said she loves to come to the park in the mornings and listen to the gurgling waterfalls as they flow from towering trees and flutter down the sides of the sinkhole and drain out.

"I just appreciate the quiet and the sounds of nature," she said. "I mean, we're right in the city. And when you're down there, you can't hear anything of Gainesville.

The sinkhole, which is 117 feet deep and 500 feet across, gets its name from its funnel-like shape.

Because fossilized bones and teeth have been found at the bottom of the sinkhole, it's said that the mill hopper fed bodies to Satan.

Devil's Millhopper is a mystical place that has spurred many legends and stories, Yesh said.

Some people, such as students in massage therapy schools, meditate at the park and put crystals in the waterfalls to "soak up" the sinkhole's energy and vibrations.

It's even listed as one of Florida's haunted places because of stories of plum-colored spirits living there, Yesh said.

"If you look close, you can see them on the peripheral of your vision as little purples and lavenders," she said.

"Whether or not the sinkhole is haunted, it's still a natural phenomenon, with some geologists estimating it was created more than 10,000 years ago.

It formed when acidic rainwater eroded an underground cave's limestone roof, which became so thin that the cavern eventually collapsed.

Many of Florida's lakes actually are sinkholes, Yesh said, but they fill up with water because they don't have drains like Devil's Millhopper.

Water washes down the sides of the sinkhole and out the drain, where it flows through underground rivers to the Gulf of Mexico.

As the state's only geological park, Devil's Millhopper may also be the only place in Florida that has continuously flowing waterfalls, Yesh said.

People come from all over the country to explore the sinkhole and its streams.

The park is the busiest on weekends, Yesh said, with 200 to 300 visitors. Close to 100 people stop by during the week.

Cocoa Beach resident Betty Talbot came to the park Saturday because her son was impressed by the sinkhole years ago.

"My son was here 30 years ago when he was in the service, and he remembered it and wanted to show it to me," she said. "It's beautiful." However, Talbot said climbing back up the 232 steps that lead down to the sinkhole was exhausting.

While some people come to the 63-acre park to work out on the stairs, Yesh said those who don't exercise often explore the park's picturesque scenery and its emerald greenery.

Before the state purchased the park in 1974, Devil's Millhopper was owned by UF, Yesh said. University classes often dug for artifacts in the sinkhole.

Now, however, visitors are asked to take only photos as souvenirs.

The park is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesdays through Sundays, with guided tours at 10 a.m. on Saturdays.

Admission is $2 per vehicle.

Devil's Millhopper Geological State Park
Where: 4732 Millhopper Road
Hours: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Wednesdays - Sundays
Guided tours at 10 a.m. Saturdays
Admission: $2 per vehicle

For more information, please call City of Gainesville (352) 334-2330 or visit www.bigblue.alachua.fl.us.

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• no plastic bags

Corrugated cardboard (with a wavy layer in the middle)
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• no pizza boxes or paperboard such as cereal boxes or beverage cartons
• remove all packing materials and flatten

Put those items in your

Magazines, catalogs and phone books
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Hurricane Frances
Utility crews scramble to alleviate storm damage

By JUSTIN HEMLEPP and NICK WEIDEN-MILLER
Alligator Staff Writers

Local utility crews are working 15-hour shifts, 24 hours a day, to repair the extensive damage caused by Tropical Storm Frances, downgraded from a hurricane Sunday as it passed over Alachua County, officials said.

The storm left 60,000 Gainesville Regional Utilities customers without power during peak outages. Crews restored power to all 10,000 customers by Tuesday afternoon, GRU spokeswoman Marsha Anderson said.

Anderson indicated that 90 additional line workers from North Carolina and Georgia were on route to the area to assist GRU employees working to rehang downed lines.

That “is a great help, and we need it,” Anderson said of the incoming assistance. She said residents have expressed unfounded concerns about the safety of the drinking water.

“We don’t have any problems with the drinking water,” she said. “It’s fine. It’s safe, and it has been.”

With classes starting again Wednesday, UF’s campus is high on the county’s priority list as recovery began, Alachua County Sheriff’s deputies said.

Locations slated for early attention by GRU crews are medical and public safety facilities, closely followed by city and county buildings, Anderson said.

Finally, residential areas’ power supplies will be addressed according to their numbers of customers without power, she said.

Powers to neighborhoods containing more residents living in the dark will be restored before single residences without electricity, she said.

ASO spokesman Stephen Maynard said that through the weekend Alachua County was termed “Alpha Bravo,” which means every local law enforcement officer was on duty and every shift was double-staffed.

Roadways crowded with motorists prevented emergency workers from getting to problems, such as downed power lines and traffic accidents, Maynard said.

“If you stay at home you’ll be a great help to us,”

Stephen Maynard
ASO spokesman

Work, school or seeking medical attention were obvious reasons to drive, but trips likely would take longer than usual, he said.

With school resuming, professors should expect many students to be late to classes, and UF students should allow double the usual time to travel to campus, Maynard said. He added that as rain continues to fall in areas north of Alachua County, the Santa Fe River and other local waterways could rise above flood levels.

If that happens, Maynard said, stretches of Interstate 75 could be forced to close.

Anderson indicated several area lift stations, which direct the flow of sewage waters, also were without power after the storm.

As workers continue to repair the downed lines causing the problem, Anderson asked residents to curtail their water usage.

“Our waste water supply, right now, is severely stressed,” Anderson said.

During this week, Alachua County Emergency Management will try to get life back to normal for residents as soon as possible, but Maynard said cooperation from the community would speed up the process.

Everyone has the opportunity to help the county recover just by staying out of the way of emergency crews, Maynard said.

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Water floods rooms, kitchens

DORMS,
from page 1

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“We were told everyone’s room is worse than ours, and they don’t know if they can do anything.”

Erin Hoeft
UF student

“We were told that when it rains this just happens, and there was nothing they could do,” said Simpson, who lives on the fourth floor.

UF housing officials were not available to comment Tuesday.

Hurricane adds to Charley’s damage

STATE, from page 1

noon Friday.

Passengers on the last departing flights filed past signs that read, “Pardon our appearance as we work to recover from Hurricane Charley.”

The storm caused flooding, in parts of Tampa, forcing police to patrol streets with two amphibious vehicles and close about one mile of a typically busy street. More than 400 residents of a retirement home were evacuated in wheelchairs as floodwaters sloshed against their feet.

“I’m not scared,” said Heather Downs, who moved into the home two weeks ago after her apartment was damaged badly by Hurricane Charley. “I’ve been through a lot.”

About 1,500 people gathered at a Wal-Mart in Palm Beach County, while hundreds of people in Fort Pierce stood in line with buckets and ice chests on a steamy afternoon.

“This has been a long haul,” said 64-year-old Judy Duffy of Fort Pierce, who searched with her husband for ice and water but drove away with only a bottle of water.

“We work to recover from Hurricane Charley.”

Saturday on its likely path toward Florida.

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In the wake

Kevin Massiah (above), a UF finance junior, sails on his skateboard Sunday at the Commuter Parking Lot. Massiah made his sail out of a raincoat, hoping to catch enough wind from Tropical Storm Frances. Caretaker David Guise (left) looks over the steeple that fell through the roof of the First Baptist Church in Cocoa Beach on Monday.

Captiva resident Blair Delozier (right) rides his bike through the standing water at Leisure Living mobile home park Monday.

SFCC graduate Ryan Klester (above) loads sandbags Friday afternoon outside the Alachua County Public Works Department. The county provided free sand and bags to any area residents intent on protecting their homes from hurricane floodwaters. Gainesville Regional Utilities crews (right) work to remove a fallen power pole and tree from the top of a power truck Sunday afternoon. The debris fell as the crews were responding to calls along Northwest Fifth Avenue.
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Thurs. 9/9

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**UF FOOTBALL REPORT**

**Suspensions follow two Gators to MTSU game**

* UF linebacker Channing Crowder and safety Jarvis Herring were supposed to serve a one-game suspension during the Gators' season-opening matchup with Middle Tennessee State. And while the pair will not miss UF's new season opener, they will still be forced to sit on the sidelines when their teammates face Middle Tennessee State on Oct. 16.

After an approaching Hurricane Frances caused the postponement of the Gators' first game, there was some uncertainty about when the two starters would serve their suspension. UF coach Ron Zook said Monday that they would probably play in UF's new season opener against Eastern Michigan, but he hadn't cleared it with UF athletics director Jeremy Foley. However, the two spoke Tuesday and a decision was reached.

"They are going to play [against Eastern Michigan]," Zook said. Then, obviously, they will miss the Middle Tennessee game. They were scheduled to miss the Middle Tennessee game. It is not their fault there was a hurricane.

The two were suspended by the team after both were involved in an incident outside a downtown Gainesville night club during the off-season. Crowder pleaded no contest to misdemeanor disorderly conduct and was fined for deferred prosecution after an obstruction charge. While the Eastern Michigan game will give the team a chance to get healthy, Tight end Dane Guthrie is still recovering from a high ankle sprain and a recent bout with a stomach illness. Harris also battled a stomach illness during the weekend, but insisted that he could have played through it.

**Gators-free weekend leads to other week one football observations**

What a long, strange storm it's been. If you were looking for The Contest winner, it's still going. Remember, the best nickname for Chris Leak is a free ticket to the LSU game — e-mail me with an entry.

But I had little time to ponder over entries this weekend, because Hurricane Frances stormed on Gainesville's parade.

Frances, could you have moved any slower? By Sunday morning, I was saying all sorts of mean things about Frances — making fun of her lack of intensity, that sort of stuff. Then my powerlines fell. I'm still out of power. The joke's on me.

But I managed to get plenty of sports in his weekend, Gators or no Gators. So here's my top five observations from this past weekend.

1. In a long overdue debut, Sylvester Croom became the first African American head coach to lead a Southeastern Conference team. Mississippi State handled Tulane 28-7. The Bulldogs may be a few years away from competing in the SEC, but Croom will eventually lead them to prominence. The brains behind the Green Bay Packers offense, Croom deserved a head job long ago. It's funny because the Gators had a job opening a few years ago — did they even interview this guy?

2. Was it a fluke or is LSU overrated? I tend to lean toward fluke, but the Tigers showed they can win. They didn't win a game in SEC, but they proved they can play some football in Sunday's game against UNLV. They racked up 513 yards of total offense in an easy victory. Anyone who thinks the Tigers' trip to Knoxville will be a breeze needs to get a reality check.

3. Don't take Tennessee lightly. Sure, they have two freshman quarterbacks at the helm, but they proved they can play some football in Sunday's game against UNLV. They've worked hard this off-season, and the team is in sync for something he did in the off-season, except to get him a warm-up game before Tennessee and a free bye week after LSU.

4. Someone on ESPN kept praising Georgia after its "drilling" of Georgia Southern, a 48-28 victory. All along I've believed that Georgia is overrated, and this win proved nothing. Giving up 28 points to a Division I-AA school isn't exactly championship-caliber defense.

5. Does anyone else think it's unethical to let Channing Crowder and Jarvis Herring play on Saturday? I've defended Crowder from the start — his incident at the Palace resulted only in a misdemeanor. But Zook says Crowder should play this weekend because the suspension was really meant to be against Middle Tennessee State, and that game just fell on opening day. Yeah right. It makes no sense to suspend a guy in midseason for something he did in the off-season, except to get him a warm-up game before Tennessee and a free bye week after LSU.

While their 2004 season was set to kick off, Hurricane Frances had other plans for the state.

The postponement of their game against Middle Tennessee State forced the players to sit and watch as the rest of college football got into the full swing of things.

"We've worked hard this off-season," Harris said. "We beat up on each other and hit each other. I'm just ready to go hit somebody else, man."

The silver lining in all of this for UF could be that it gave some of its injured players a chance to get healthy. Tight end Dane Guthrie is still recovering from a high ankle sprain and a recent bout with a stomach illness. Harris also battled a stomach illness during the weekend, but insisted that he could have played through it.

**ON TELEVISION**

- **MLB**: N.Y. Mets vs. Florida
  - Fox Sports Network, 7 p.m.
- **Hockey World Cup**: Quarterfinals
  - ESPN2, 7 p.m.
Frances forces UF to play 11 consecutive weeks

By GREGG GIRVAN
Alligator Staff Writer
ggrivan@alligator.org

Coach Ron Zook didn’t get his say, and ultimately, neither did the players that will have to grind through a break-less season.

Not only did the uncontrollable force of Hurricane Frances cause, among other things, Saturday’s game against Middle Tennessee State to be cancelled, but now UF will have to make the game up on Oct. 16, formerly known as the Gators’ open date.

“There’s a reason why there’s 117 teams and only four don’t have an open date. The date is not in case of something like this, it’s for a reason. That’s the hand you’re dealt.”

Ron Zook
UF football coach

The result is that, while MTSU is not a top-25 opponent, UF will have no choice but to play its 11 regular season games in consecutive weeks.

Zook said only a handful of teams will be doing the same, only they are doing it voluntarily.

“There’s a reason why there’s 117 teams and only four don’t have an open date. The date is not in case of something like this, it’s for a reason. That’s the hand you’re dealt.”

UF coach Ron Zook would rather make up last weekend’s game against Middle Tennessee State after Thanksgiving. However, the game has been rescheduled for Oct. 16.

“The delay doesn’t stop coach Jeff Pigg’s optimism for 2004.”

By TIM CASEY
Alligator Contributing Writer

Only a hurricane could keep the UF cross country team from its first meet of the season. Actually, two hurricanes. Before Hurricane Frances became an imminent threat to the Central Florida Invitational scheduled for Friday in Orlando, the damage inflicted by Hurricane Charley caused the meet to be cancelled on Tuesday.

UF coach Jeff Pigg says that while the cancellation is a disappointment, it will not cause any setbacks.

“We’ll do a workout similar to the race put the runners’ bodies through the same exercise,” Pigg said. “It will give us an idea of where we’re at. For those who run well, it confirms all the training. For those who don’t, it will motivate them to do better.”

The season will now open at home in the Gator Invitational on Sept. 18.

“I’ve never been so excited about a team in my 15 years of coaching as I am about this team,” Pigg said. “It’s evident that the kids are really hard,” he said. “With the coaching change at Texas A&M, she decided to make a change. She felt Florida was where she wanted to be.”

Pigg says the women’s team will be more competitive with a balanced lineup and hopes the men’s team finishes in the top four of the Southeastern Conference.

Conference coaches have the UF team tied for sixth in their annual preseason poll.

“We’ve got a surprise coming,” Pigg said.

The men’s team is ranked second by SEC coaches, receiving two first-place votes.

“I’m glad people believe in us,” Pigg said.

The men’s team will be led by Steve Zieminski, UF’s only representative at the NCAA championship last year, Shane Stroup, Brett Schneider, freshman Henok Lechebo and captains Steven Hassen and Cory Presnick.

Lechebo placed 22nd at the world junior championships, finishing behind only runners from Kenya and Ethiopia. Pigg said.

“When he runs close to the front, it will pull other guys up with him. His performance can elevate the performance of the entire team,” Pigg said.

Zieminski agrees with the assessment of Lechebo.

“He’s definitely going to make an impact and be a top-end boost for the team,” he said.

Double-storm punch prevents cross country’s debut


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UF athletics director Jeremy Foley made the announcement to Zook while he and the coaches were in the offensive meeting room Thursday preparing for the game.

Foley understood where Zook was coming from, given that losing the bye week was not ideal. In the end, however, it was the only choice.

“I just think there are a lot of different considerations and different factors,” Foley said. “The best thing to do for the whole program, the institution and the community is to play on the 16th. Thanksgiving weekend is a tough time to play, especially a non-conference game and not a SEC game.”

Zook said the hurricane and the subsequent rescheduling is a small dose of adversity for the Gators to plow through. And given that the cancellation will give players like Todd McCullough more time to recover from injuries, UF could over-come another week without hitting people other than each other during game week.

“It will put a burden on a young football team, but certainly Coach Zook and his staff will have them prepared to deal with that,” Foley said. The game will be played at the unusual time of noon. Foley said the time was decided upon to allow the game to be picked up on pay-per-view while not causing a possible conflict with CBS, which has a contract with the Southeastern Conference and begins televising games at 1 p.m.

Foley also considered timing issues with the Louisiana State game, which is played the week before on Oct. 9th.

“We want to play an afternoon game,” he said. “The week prior to that, LSU has not been announced, but we all think that has a chance to be a night game. We really don’t want to do back-to-back night games.”

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Gators split weekend matches in North Carolina

By ERIC ESTEBAN
Alligator Writer

One of the best ways to judge what a team is playing at is to match up against the best.

The Gators soccer team did just that this weekend escaping from Tar Heel country more than satisfied.

Despite being shutout by top-ranked North Carolina on Friday, 3-0, UF (3-1) defeated No. 18 Duke on Sunday, 5-1, behind a three-goal effort from senior Ashley Kellgren.

"I expected a lot of emotional energy heading into the Duke game and got just that."

Becky Burleigh
UF coach

Kellgren, whose three goals in one game is the first since former Gator and current gold-medallist Abby Wambach in 2001, leads the Gators in every scoring category this season with four goals and three assists.

"The first two [goals], I got great passes from Mel right in front of the net and I was able to get a foot on it," Kellgren said.

"The last one, I was running down the center wide open and KeLeigh was able to find me on it."

"The Nike Carolina Classic provided Coach Becky Burleigh with her first look of how her No.12 Gators could perform both on the road and against ranked opponents, she said.

"I honestly think we played better on Friday than we did on Sunday," Burleigh said. "I'm disappointed with the loss to Carolina, but we never backed down and kept our strong attacking mentality the whole way through."

UNC wasted no time in their match showing why they are defending national champs and owners of a 30-match win streak.

Olympian Lindsay Tarpley hit a crossing pass, 27 seconds into the match, to fellow Olympian Heather O'Reilly, which UF senior defender Monica Hoyles, in attempting to deflect it, knocked into the goal.

"We gave up goals when we knew they were most dangerous — first five, last five and then a rebound goal," Burleigh said.

Duke proved to be a different story. The Gators came out firing behind the leadership of their senior offensive trio as Kellgren's three goals, Stephanie Freeman's goal and assist and Christine Johnson's goal led UF to victory.

"I expected a lot of emotional energy heading into the Duke game and got just that," Burleigh said.
VOLLEYBALL

Gators to stay on the road

**STAFF REPORT**

While most UF students return to a normal day of classes Wednesday, there are at least 13 who have decided to stay out of town.

The UF volleyball team, following a transplant-themed tournament, will remain in the Midwest as it prepares for its next tournament in Minneapolis, Minn.

Originally slated to host an invitational tournament of its own this past weekend, UF watched as Hurricane Frances changed those plans.

One of the scheduled teams, Northwestern, accommodated the Gators and two other teams in hosting the Northwestern University Labor Day invite on Saturday and Sunday.

As Frances cut across Florida, the No. 4 Gators (4-0) dominated Bowling Green, Indiana-Purdue Fort Wayne and Northwestern, sweeping each match in three games.

In the tournament opener, outside hitter Jane Collymore may have been the best player on the floor against Bowling Green.

The junior led the way for the Gators, having 16 kills and six service aces with no service errors for the three games.

"Jane served very well for us during the match," Coach Mary Wise said. "Jane has a high-risk serve and for her to finish with six [aces] without having any errors says a lot."

Another key in the first match was senior middle blocker Michelle Chatman.

With the Gators down two early in the second game, Chatman provided three kills and four aces in a 12-0 Gators run.

The Gators won the first match by scores of 30-23, 30-26 and 30-21.

In the first match of a Sunday doubleheader, the Gators overpowered Indiana-Purdue Fort Wayne, winning 30-15, 30-19, 30-20. Once again, Collymore led the way as she posted her first double-double of the season.

Collymore duplicated her 23.5 point performance from Saturday with 17 kills, 10 digs and five service aces.

Freshman Marcie Hampton continued to impress, rattling up 14 kills with eight digs, and senior Sherri Williams had 11 kills on 16 chances in the second match of the tournament, against Indiana-Purdue Fort Wayne.

The nightcap Sunday was a match against host Northwestern.

The only team of the three originally slated to be in Gainesville, Northwestern, was defeated 30-24, 30-20, 30-14.

"These two matches [Sunday] gave us two different looks, which will help us down the road," Wise said. "Indiana-Purdue Fort Wayne featured two international players and that also presents a challenge, while Northwestern allowed us to be the visiting team for the first time and deal with that. We're still a work in progress, but we're getting better with each match."

After staying in Illinois through Tuesday, the Gators will bus six hours to Minneapolis to prepare for the tournament opener on Thursday. The Gators will play Kansas State, Northern Iowa, and Minnesota.

FSU’s Bowden loses grandson

FORT WALTON BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Chocowhatchee High’s game against a traditional rival will go on as scheduled Friday, a day after funeral services for football player Bowden Madden, grandson of Florida State football coach Bobby Bowden, and the boy’s father.

They were killed Sunday night in a collision with a Texas utility truck on its way to restore power lost by victims of Hurricane Frances, which had sapped the highway with rain.

Fifteen-year-old Bowden, like his father, John Madden, 45, played center at Chocowhatchee, which hosts nearby Niceville on Friday.

"Bowden and John both wanted them to play," Principal Cindy Masserelli said Tuesday.

There will be a moment of silence and players will wear Bowden Madden’s No. 57 on their helmets when the Indians take the field on the same night Bobby Bowden’s fourth-ranked Seminoles travel to No. 5 Miami for a game postponed from Monday because of Frances.

The Maddens, of nearby Shalimar, were killed on Interstate 10 near Quincy shortly after leaving Tallahassee.

They had gone there to attend a birthday party for young Bowden’s brother and another of Bobby Bowden’s 21 grandchildren, J.J. Madden, 18, a student at FSU.

John Madden was divorced in January from Ginger Madden, Bobby Bowden’s daughter. She is a state prosecutor in Shalimar.

Bowden Madden, a sophomore, also sang in the chorus and was eager to help around the school, Masserelli said.

"He was the first to volunteer to do whatever needed to be done," she said.
Symposia Shuttle
Special bus transportation will provide continuous service to all academic events between 11 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Sept. 9

11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Academic symposia and open house events, campuswide

Harn Museum of Art and Florida Museum of Natural History will be open for special tours; box lunches available

1:30-3 p.m. Moderated discussion, Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria? And Other Conversations About Race, by Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum, noted author, clinical psychologist, researcher and president of Spelman College, Phillips Center for the Performing Arts

3:30-4:30 p.m. Closing address, Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum, Phillips Center for the Performing Arts

*Many events will be concurrent. A complete schedule and details can be found at www.president.ufl.edu/inauguration

Friday, September 10
Noon-1:30 p.m. Installation ceremony, Stephen C. O'Connell Center

1:30-3:30 p.m. Ports of Call inaugural reception, Florida Gym

9:30-10:30 p.m. Weekend with Bernie student reception; Gator Nights, Union Grand Ballroom

Saturday, September 11
8 a.m.-noon Gator Plunge: Million Minutes of Service Campaign, J. Wayne Reitz Union South Terrace

6 p.m. UF vs. Eastern Michigan Football

Welcome Center
An inaugural welcome area will be staffed in the UF Bookstore and Welcome Center for the week of Sept. 6-10 with maps, detailed schedules, tours, and brochures from 8 a.m.-6 p.m.