





# Monster Floyd bears down on Southeast; evacuations planned

MIAMI (AP) — Schools closed, shelters opened and buildings were boarded up as residents along 400 miles of coastal Florida and Georgia made final preparations for Hurricane Floyd, one of the most powerful storms to ever threaten the United States.

Floyd's top winds were 155 mph — just below Category 5 strength, the most powerful designation for a hurricane. Storm surges were reported at up to 20 feet above normal tide levels.

At 5 a.m. EDT, Floyd was about 275 miles southeast of Miami and moving slightly to the northwest at about 14 mph. Southern Florida could begin feeling hurricane-force winds — at least 74 mph — by this afternoon.

But forecasters said early today that Floyd was expected

to gradually turn northwest and possibly hit land somewhere between central Florida and South Carolina in the next few days.

Although it may shift north, Florida would still be battered when Floyd's eye was expected to pass within 90 miles of southern Florida today and perhaps skirt as near as 50 miles from north Florida's coast by Wednesday morning.

Damage could come from hurricane-force winds that extend 125 miles from the hurricane's center. Tropical storm force winds reached out as far as 290 miles.

"If this thing parallels us, it could act like a weed-eater going up the coast," said Craig Fugate of the Florida Emergency Operations Center in Tallahassee. "It's going to be

pretty devastating."  
Floyd was much larger than Hurricane Andrew — a Category 4 storm — which smashed into South Florida in 1992, causing \$25 billion in damage, killing 26 people and leaving 160,000 homeless.

The East Coast from Florida City, south of Miami, to Brunswick, Ga., — about 400 miles — was under a hurricane warning Monday night, meaning hurricane conditions could be felt within 24 hours.

A hurricane watch covered coastal areas from Brunswick north along most of the South Carolina coast, while a tropical storm warning was in effect for most of the Florida Keys.

Residents in coastal and low-lying areas of Florida and Georgia packed stores to stock up on canned food, bottled

water, plywood and aluminum shutters as about 1 million residents were urged to evacuate.

Florida Gov. Jeb Bush declared a state of emergency, giving him the authority to deploy the state's National Guard. Officials suspended tolls on Florida's Turnpike, one of three major north-south highways, and other toll roads in central and southern Florida.

Martha Thompson, 48, was worried about being alone during a storm and went to a Miami-Dade County shelter Monday night.

"Unfortunately, my husband died last year, and I can't stay alone in my house during this hurricane," she said. "I would not know what to do."

Central Florida tourist attractions and theme parks that have never been through a major

hurricane prepared for the worst by lowering water levels in manmade lagoons, and removing trash cans and anything else that could become a projectile.

Airlines canceled virtually all flights into and out of southern Florida, while Navy ships left port to ride out the storm at sea, and aircraft were sent inland.

A skeleton crew left behind at NASA's Kennedy Space Center was expected to remain unless winds become as fierce as predicted.

Three space shuttles were in the shuttle hangar, which is designed to withstand wind of only up to 105 mph.

A fourth is in the 525-foot-high Vehicle Assembly Building, which is designed to withstand wind of up to 125 mph.

Four multimillion-dollar rock-

ets stood exposed on launch pads and could not be moved in time.

In Georgia, Gov. Roy Barnes activated the National Guard late Monday to aid evacuation. Further up the coast, in South Carolina, residents with memories of Hurricane Hugo — which battered the coast with 135 mph winds 10 years ago — also started packing up.

"How do you prepare for a storm that's going to wipe you out?" asked Buster Browne, a McClennanville, S.C., resident who rode out Hugo, a Category 4 storm.

"Category 1 or 2, you run out and buy plywood and do what you can," he said. "If a Category 5's going to hit you, what the hell are you going to do? Get the stuff you want to save and leave town."

## Democrat: Justice disclosed use of pyrotechnic tear gas

WASHINGTON (AP) — The chief Republican congressional investigator in the Waco affair overlooked evidence his own committee had received from the Justice Department four years ago showing federal agents used potentially incendiary tear gas during the fiery end of the 1993 Branch Davidian siege, a key House Democrat disclosed Monday.

Releasing a trio of documents that "explicitly" describe the FBI's use of military tear gas rounds on the standoff's final day, Rep. Henry Waxman questioned why the House Government Reform Committee's chairman is accusing the Justice Department of a cover-up when his own investigators overlooked the same evidence that suddenly has revived the Waco debate.

"Contrary to the allegations of cover-up, substantial evidence of the use of military tear gas rounds was, in fact, provided to Congress in 1995," said Waxman, top Democrat on the Government Reform Committee.

The records, discovered among the more than 40 boxes of material compiled during the House's 1995 hearings, include a pilot's 1994 statement regarding a radio transmission in which agents had a conversation "relative to the utilization of some sort of military round ... on a concrete bunker." And post-raid inter-

view summaries include an unnamed FBI agent's explanation that smoke captured on film "came from attempt to penetrate bunker with one military and two (non-incendiary) rounds."

In a letter to the special counsel investigating the controversy, Waxman of California wrote: "There is no indication that Chairman (Dan) Burton or his staff thought to review these documents before accusing the attorney general of a cover-up."

Burton spokesman Mark Corallo acknowledged the records had been in the committee's possession since 1995. However, he noted, they were part of more than 100,000 documents which the Justice Department gave the panel three days before hearings were set to begin, "in an obvious attempt to keep congressional staff from having enough time to review those documents."

Added Corallo: "You have to wonder why the attorney general is running around seeming so distraught and upset that people lied to her ... despite the fact that a memo has existed at the Justice Department since 1993 that points to the use of these devices."

Last week, the Justice Department was forced to acknowledge it had failed in 1995 to give Congress the key page from a 1993 FBI lab report

mentioning the use of military tear gas.

The missing page "raises more questions about whether this committee was intentionally misled during the original Waco investigation," Burton, R-Ind., said on "Fox News Sunday."

Houston lawyer Michael Caddell, who represents surviving Davidians in their upcoming lawsuit against the government, said the Waxman disclosures mean little. "Unless you were a munitions expert, you would not know that military CS gas was necessarily a pyrotechnic device," he said. "You've got to connect the dots."

Until the FBI's recent admission that a "very limited number" of pyrotechnic rounds were fired, Justice and FBI officials publicly had denied the use of potentially incendiary tear gas. That about-face has sparked inquiry and led Attorney General Janet Reno to appoint an outside investigator.

Waxman's presentation came as the Texas Rangers released a report showing that spent rifle cartridges of a caliber preferred by snipers turned up in a house the FBI used during the seven-week siege.

The FBI steadfastly has denied that its agents fired a single shot that day. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agents also had used the house 51 days earlier during the Feb.

28 gun battle that ignited the standoff. The ATF agents had been trying to serve weapons warrants on the well-armed Davidians, who had received a tip about the raid.

The spent .308-caliber and .223-caliber casings recovered at the scene match the type ATF agents used, an agency spokesman said. Whether the shell casings referenced in the Rangers' report are from the ATF agents' rounds, "We do not know," ATF spokesman Jeff Roehm said.

FBI spokesman Tron Brekke said .308-caliber and .223-caliber shells are "within our inventory," but added, "Our position is the same as it's always been: We didn't fire any rounds at Waco."

In an account the FBI since has said was wrong, an FBI agent initially reported hearing shots fired from that house on April 19, 1993, the siege's final day.

Former Sen. John Danforth, the Missouri Republican Reno appointed last week to head an independent inquiry, said whether FBI agents fired shots that day will be among the "dark questions" his inquiry will probe.

The Rangers' report also includes a letter from a federal prosecutor who told Reno that Justice Department officials may have withheld facts from her regarding use of the pyrotechnic tear gas.

## Lawyers ask for delay in providing witness lists

WACO (AP) — Government attorneys asked Monday for a two-week extension in turning over information about expert witnesses scheduled to testify at a lawsuit brought by Branch Davidians.

In their motion, government attorneys said they could not produce the witness list due last Friday and also comply with a House Government Reform Committee request to review case files for two previous lawsuits, along with the United States v. Branch trial transcript and "voluminous other materials."

Mike Caddell, lead attorney for the Branch Davidians, said that while he does not object to the extension, it's another reason to delay the trial set for Oct. 18.

Plaintiffs attorneys filed a motion last week to delay the trial until Dec. 6 or Jan. 10 and asked for a meeting with U.S. District Judge Walter Smith to discuss scheduling.

Caddell said he is still waiting on key evidence from the government, including audio tapes and videotapes from April 19, 1993, the day that the Davidians' compound 10 miles west of Waco went up in flames, killing David Koresh and about 80 of his followers, ending a 51-day siege.

In the government's motion, attorneys said they have gathered for the plaintiffs approximately seven boxes of documents, plus several boxes containing videotapes, audio tapes, photographs, diagrams and other materials.

"Additional files are being searched, and it is expected that more materials may be made available shortly," the motion states.

The wrongful death lawsuit filed by survivors and relatives of the dead challenges the government's conclusions that the Davidians started the fire and shot first during the initial raid.

The FBI now admits that potentially incendiary tear-gas canisters were fired on the final day but says they were aimed away from the main compound.

Attorneys for the Davidians filed a document Monday adding Edward Allard to their list of expert witnesses for the trial.

Allard will testify his analysis of a Forward Looking Infra Red (FLIR) tape shows that at least 60 shots were fired at the Davidians on the day their residence burned down.

Allard made similar claims in the 1997 film, "Waco: Rules of Engagement."

## Trump may run as Reform Party candidate

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump says he may run for president as a Reform Party candidate out of respect for Minnesota Gov. Jesse Ventura.

Supporters of Ventura, a former professional wrestler and a leader in the Reform Party, are said to be urging Trump to run as an alternative to the potential candidacy of Pat Buchanan.

"Everybody wants me to run for president, and I have a lot of respect for Jesse and the job he has done," Trump said Monday in a telephone interview from his New York office. "When he asks to look at something, I'm going to consider it."

He declined to say whether Ventura has actually urged him

to run, though Trump has talked to the governor recently. But Ventura's backers are making it clear that Trump would be more suitable than Buchanan.

And an official who has talked to both Trump and Ventura said the governor would prefer to see Trump run.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity. Ventura said Monday that he has had three conversations with Trump, and that "he is starting to pique my interest a lot."

"I think he may end up being a good candidate for us," Ventura said, adding that he has read Trump's upcoming

book and he believes Trump "seems to parallel me a lot."

Buchanan, a three-time Republican presidential candidate who is sagging in the 2000 presidential polls, is on the brink of bolting the GOP for the Reform Party. Trump's remarks set the stage for a potential clash between him and Buchanan.

"I think his views are prehistoric," Trump said of Buchanan.

Buchanan, appearing on CNN's "Larry King Live," said he was "heading in that direction of running for the Reform Party nomination ... and we'll have a final decision by Oct. 15."



**JEANS GETTING A BIT TOO TIGHT?**

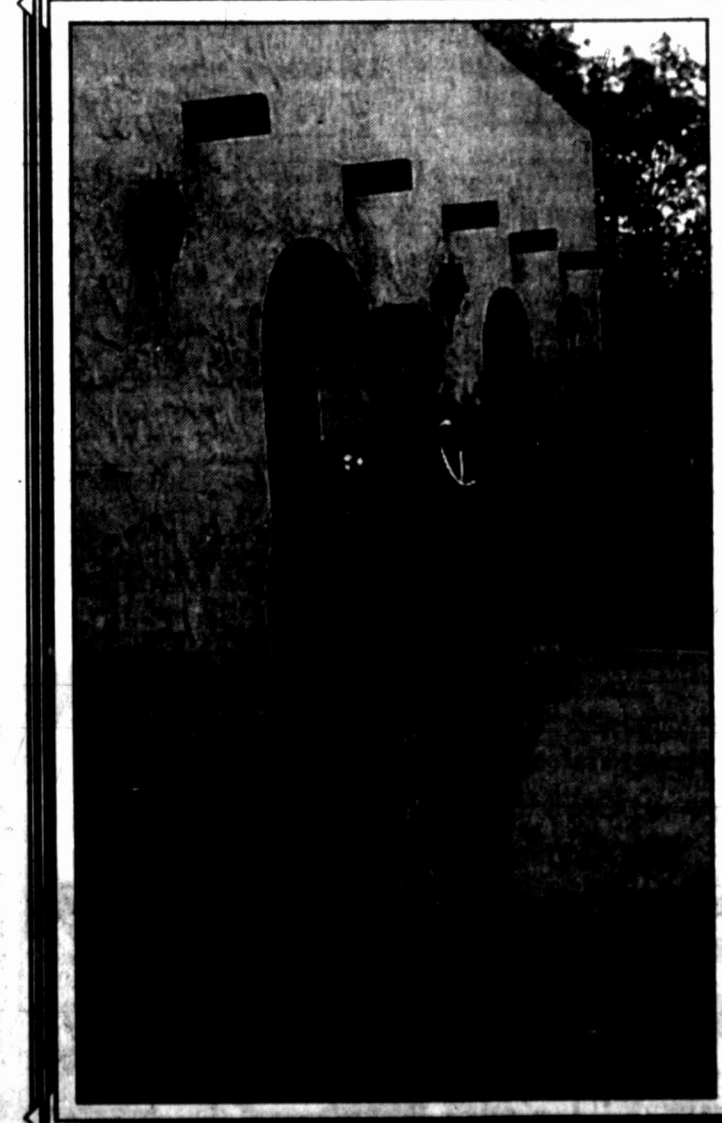
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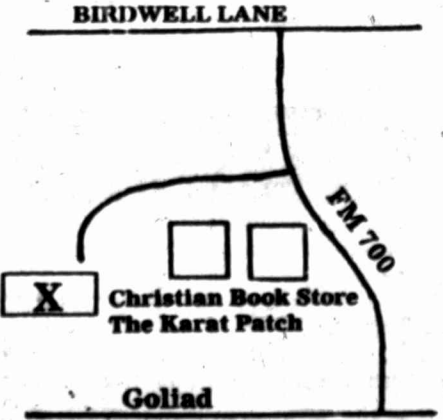
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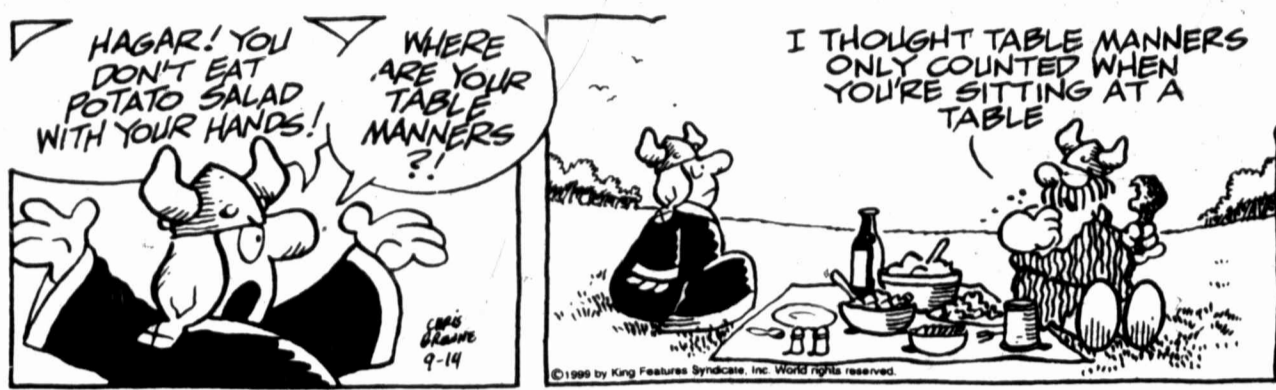




TUESDAY SEP. 14

TV schedule table with columns for station (e.g., KMID, KPEJ, KERA), time (e.g., 6 PM, 7 PM), and program name (e.g., News, Spin City, Dharma-Greg).

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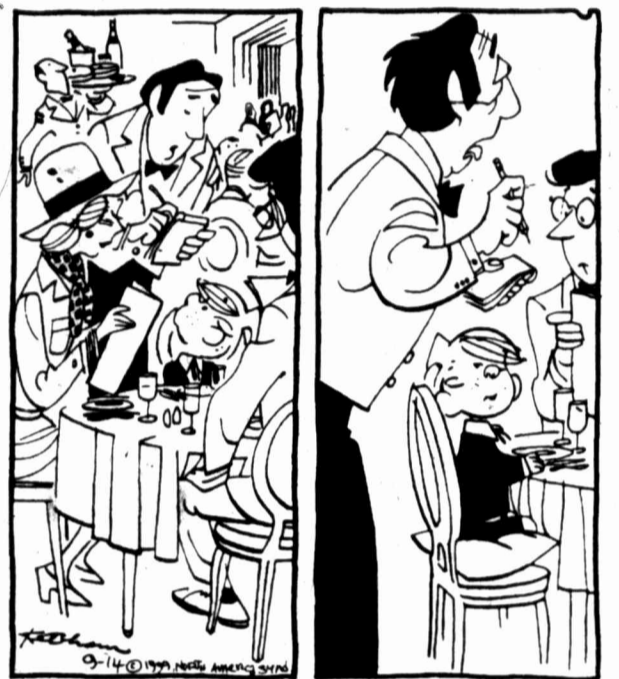
B.C.



FAMILY CIRCUS



DENNIS THE MENACE



GEECH



"You drew this one of Adam and Eve wrong, Daddy. They didn't have belly buttons."

"Sorry, we're out of root beer."

"Then I'll have a glass of ketchup."

WIZARD OF ID



THIS DATE IN HISTORY

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Tuesday, Sept. 14, the 257th day of 1999. There are 108 days left in the year.

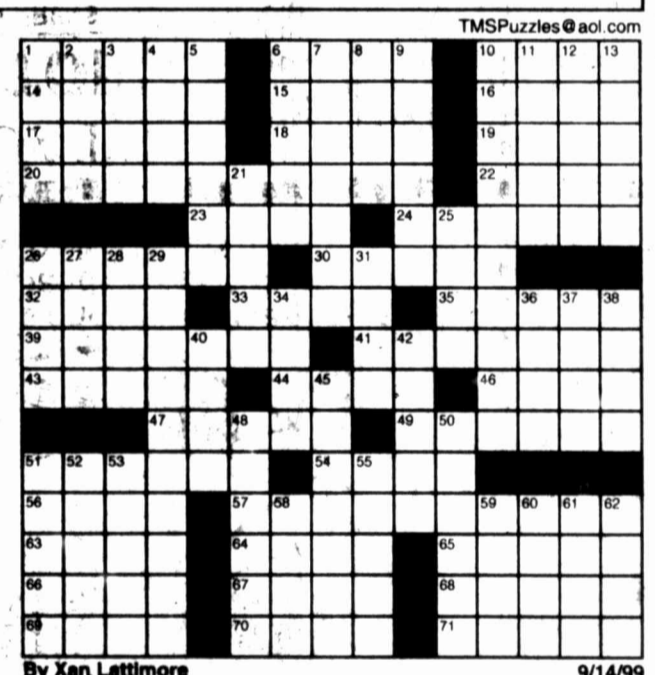
Today's Highlight in History: On Sept. 14, 1814, Francis Scott Key wrote "The Star Spangled Banner" after witnessing the British bombardment of Fort Mchenry in Maryland.

On this date: In 1847, U.S. forces under Gen. Winfield Scott took control of Mexico City. In 1901, President McKinley died in Buffalo, N.Y., of gunshot wounds inflicted by an assassin. Vice President Theodore Roosevelt succeeded him.

THE Daily Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

- ACROSS 1 Incantation 6 Created a cocoon 10 FDR's dog 14 Pond scum 15 May or Ann, e.g. 16 Religious figure 17 Tilts 18 Makes a decision 19 Front of the calf 20 Rotgut 22 At this place 23 Data, casually 24 Slurs over 26 Sun-dried bricks 30 Alluring lady 32 Spiritual adviser 33 Shoshones 35 Incandescent 39 "Lou Grant" star 41 Spanish marauder 43 New, India 44 Chilled 46 Killer whale 47 Alpaca kin 49 Undercover 51 Lurch and swerve 54 Neighbor of Vietnam 56 District 57 God's acre 63 "The Avengers" star Diana 64 Residence 65 No-no 66 Biblical twin 67 Unwrap 68 Native Alaskan 69 Clair or Coty 70 Comic Rudner 71 View twice



By Xan Lettitors Rosemont, PA

9/14/99

Monday's Puzzle Solved



HI AND LOIS



GASOLINE ALLEY



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILY



Advertisement for Big Spring Herald newspaper, including contact information, subscription rates, and staff list.

Today's Birthdays: "Lone Ranger" Clayton Moore is 85. Actress Zoe Caldwell is 66. Feminist author Kate Millet is 65. Actor Walter Koenig is 63. Singer Jon "Bowzer" Bauman (Sha Na Na) is 52. Singer Barry Cowsill is 45. Rock musician Steve Berlin (Los Lobos) is 44. Actor Joe Penny is 43. Actress Mary Crosby is 40. Singer Morten Harket (a-ha) is 40. Country singer John Berry is 40. Actress Faith Ford is 35. Actor Dan Cortese is 31. Rock musician Craig Montoya (Everclear) is 29.