



HURRICANE FRANCES

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO NOW • IN LOCAL NEWS, 1B-8B
Closings • Evacuation maps • Shelter maps

IN BUSINESS
Can you find gas?
Money from ATMs?
What are hospitals doing?

The Palm Beach Post

Friday, September 3, 2004

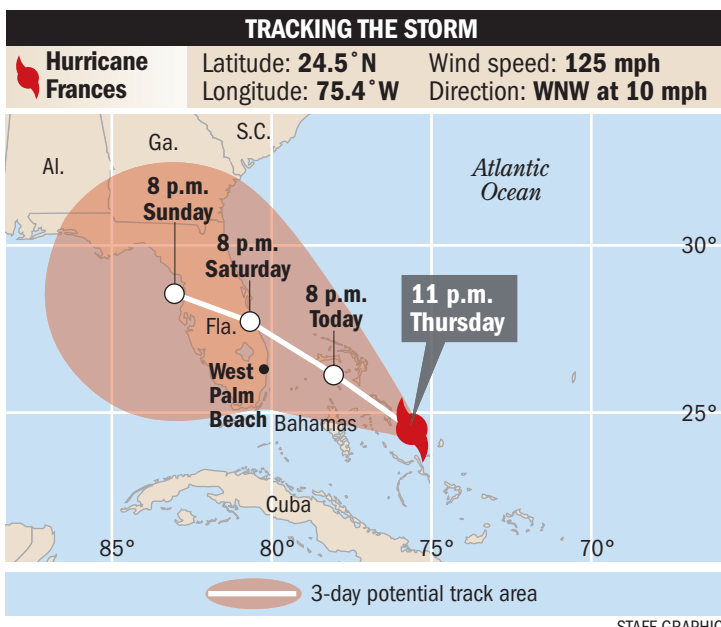
Final Edition • PalmBeachPost.com

1 2 3 4 • 50 cents

2.5 million Floridians
under evacuation orders

Hurricane-force winds
expected late tonight

Treasure Coast residents
face alcohol ban, curfews



For the latest position of Frances,
PalmBeachPost.com

FLEEING THE FURY



LANNIS WATERS/Staff Photographer

Robert Nadaskay of Delray Beach sits in the special care unit shelter for people with health problems Thursday at the South Florida Fairgrounds. The shelter is not available to people who have not already registered.

Breathe deeply, avoid 'worst-case scenarios'

By KIMBERLY MILLER
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

Frances will creep up. Like a familiar summer storm, the first of its clouds greeting South Florida will be steel gray, carried by harmless breezes that lift skirts and swirl leaves. The anxiety felt by those caught in the frenzy of preparation and anticipation may ease. Not because the fear is lifted, psychologists say, but because the fear finally is going to be faced. Experts and people who

have experienced major hurricanes say you can survive this storm by following the rules incessantly repeated since Monday. Get to a shelter early. Stay away from windows. Huddle in a closet or interior room. Don't leave your residence once the winds begin. You can survive this Texas-sized monster by preparation, wit and instinct, they say. By afternoon, 60-mph winds will whip through See SURVIVAL, 4A ▶

Be ready for Frances

- Check latest advisory, tracking maps, coordinates and forecast path.
 - Doppler radar updates and I-95 Web cams.
 - Free e-mail alerts with official advisories.
 - Ask questions and post reports from your neighborhood.
- PalmBeachPost.com

Hurricane weakens slightly but remains powerful force

By ELIOT KLEINBERG, ANDREW MARRA,
DARA KAM and TIM O'MEILIA
Palm Beach Post Staff Writers

Waiting for Frances. Most of Florida's east coast nailed plywood over windows, idled in line for gas and fled coastal areas by the hundreds of thousands as powerful Hurricane Frances, twice as big as brother Charley of three weeks ago, slowed every so slightly. Across the state, 2.5 million Floridians are under evacuation orders, the largest number in state history. Frances weakened Thursday night as it rippled through the Bahamas on its way to a predicted landfall early Saturday somewhere

along the east-central Florida coast. Although it dropped to a Category 3 storm, National Hurricane Center meteorologist Eric Blake said it would restrengthen to a Category 4 by tonight. At 11 p.m., the storm was 330 miles from Palm Beach County, moving west-northwest near 10 mph with sustained winds of 125 mph. No matter where the eye strikes, all of Palm Beach County can expect hours of unrelenting hurricane-force winds (74 mph and higher) beginning late tonight and lasting much of the day Saturday. Plodding but powerful, the storm could See FRANCES, 4A ▶

Weather: High 88, low 77.

FORECAST ON BACK OF SPORTS

Copyright 2004
Palm Beach Post
Vol. 96 No. 147, 6 sections



DEAR ABBY 2E
BUSINESS 1D
CLASSIFIED 1F
COMICS 8E
CROSSWORD 7E
CROSSWORD 7F
DEATHS 9A
EDITORIALS 10A
HOROSCOPE 2E
LOTTERY 2A
PEOPLE 7A
SCORES 11C
STOCKS 3D
THEATERS TGIF
TV LISTINGS 7E
WEATHER 12C

Note to readers

Hurricane Frances may affect delivery of *The Palm Beach Post* this weekend. Papers may be delivered earlier or later than usual, and blocked roads and evacuation areas may prevent delivery in some neighborhoods. Some newspaper racks were removed before the storm to prevent damage.

President outlines his vision

Bush accepts the Republican nomination in New York. **Story, 3A**



Hurricane forces UM, Florida to postpone games

Miami will meet Florida State next Friday, and UF's opener against Middle Tennessee is now set for Oct. 16. **Sports, 1C**