

Texas beach towns getting back to normal after storm

BY JUAN A. LOZANO
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GALVESTON, TEXAS | Surfers and joggers hit the beach Tuesday after Tropical Storm Edouard brushed past and caused little damage, while inland farmers hoped the storm's remnants would help ease drought conditions.

"Galveston is open for business, and we certainly welcome the tourists back to the island," said City Manager Steve LeBlanc, whose island city of about 60,000 typically doubles in population during the peak tourist months.

Forecasters had feared Edouard could become a hurricane, and both Texas and Louisiana prepared for an emergency.

But when it made landfall east of Galveston and west of the Louisiana border, between the small coastal town of High Island and Sabine Pass, winds gusted as high as 65 mph, 9 mph below hurricane strength. The storm then weakened to a tropical depression as it moved toward Houston Tuesday afternoon.

"Texas is grateful that this

storm did not escalate to hurricane strength before making landfall on our shores," said Gov. Rick Perry.

Inland Texas and western Louisiana prepared for several inches of rain that could help ease drought conditions.

Ranchers and farmers in central and southeastern Texas along Interstate 10 would welcome the relief, said John Nielsen-Gammon, the state's climatologist at Texas A&M University.

Parts of those areas remain in exceptional drought, according to last week's U.S. Drought Monitor map. Some ranchers are finding it difficult to feed their livestock.

The rain "will help in the short term at least," Nielsen-Gammon said. "You'll see some green-up. Ideally, if you get enough rain you can sustain a good bit of growth and maybe get some hay out of it."

Jim McAdams, a fourth-generation rancher and past president of the National Cattleman's Beef Association, wasn't at home Tuesday to see if rain from Edouard was falling on his ranch just southeast of San Antonio.

He got an inch or so from Hurricane Dolly a couple of weeks ago, which greened up his pastures pretty well, he said. It's been a tough year, he said.

"Overall it's just one of those years everybody's just hanging on living from one rain to the next," he said.

Galveston and surrounding areas certainly were grateful they dodged the fate of another Texas tourist hotspot, South Padre Island, hit by the 100-mph winds of Dolly last month.

Earlier forecasts had the center of the storm passing over Galveston, but the only noticeable damage after the storm was to a tree on the city's golf course.

A few hours later, surfers were hitting the waves and beaches were filled with joggers and people walking their dogs as they would on any other summer day during tourist season.

Houston homebuilder Rodney Graham, who like a lot of vacationers stayed through the storm with his family, watched his 10-year-old daughter Haley ride a wave on her surfboard.



THE LEADER FILES

The shoulders on Spencer Hill Road will not be blacktopped this year.

COSTS

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to curb projects to stay within budget. An unexpected state grant of nearly \$500,000 in June was used for scheduled work instead of new projects. In July, a number of road projects were trimmed or delayed.

Crews expect to complete projects by the end of August and avoid more rising costs, Spagnoletti told the committee.

The department also cut costs in other projects, such as bridge work, Spagnoletti said.

County Legislator Thomas Schwartz, R-Corning Town, said extra sales tax revenues should be used to complete road projects this year.

"If we draw the balance of the sales tax we can pay for these projects," Schwartz said. "My position is solid. We need to use the extra sales tax to pay for these roads."

However, despite an unusual 14 percent jump in sales tax revenues in the first quarter, sales tax revenues now appear to be slowing down significantly.

"If it falls off during the third and fourth quarters, we

will have (no extra) left," county Administrator Mark Alger said. "We don't have that flexibility in the budget."

Alger said the rising price of fuel has affected all county departments, with estimates now of a total fuel budget deficit of \$500,000 by the end of the year.

Using contingency funds or county reserves is a last resort, Alger said.

"I'm telling all departments to use their departmental money first to pay for their fuel," Alger said. "They can come to me after they do that."

Violent storms spawn tornadoes in Ill.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO | Crews began cleaning up downed trees and restoring power across northern Illinois on Tuesday after a line of powerful storms ripped through the area, spawning at least two tornadoes.

The National Weather Service confirmed that tornadoes touched down in the Chicago suburbs of Bloomingdale and Bolingbrook late Monday. A third tornado touched down in Griffith, Ind.

A tornado and other high

winds damaged 25 homes, including two left uninhabitable when winds ripped off parts of roofs, said Bolingbrook Assistant Fire Chief Robert Mierop. No one was injured.

Strong winds also damaged buildings and flooded streets across the northern part of the state late Monday, and lightning is being blamed for several fires.

Another line of thunderstorms left tens of thousands without power early Tuesday in north-central Illinois.

Parts of central and south-

ern Illinois were under severe thunderstorm warnings Tuesday, and the weather service predicted more strong winds and the possibility of hail. Weather damage — including standing water, downed tree limbs and blinking traffic lights — snarled rush-hour traffic in the Chicago area.

More than 100 flights were canceled at O'Hare International Airport on Tuesday morning, according to aviation department spokesman Gregg Cunningham.

SEVEN-DAY FORECAST



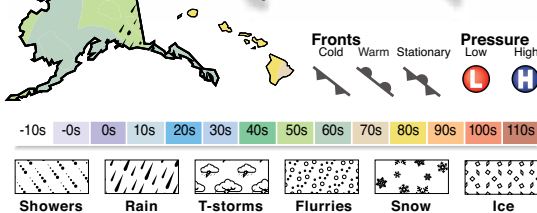
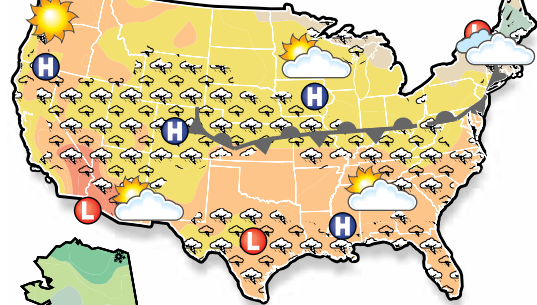
WETM 18 Storm Team
Meteorologist Joe Pasquarelli
Meteorologist Nick Bannin



Today	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Partly sunny, showers in morning	Partly sunny, inc. clouds or showers	Cloudy, occ. showers, t-storms	Partly sunny with showers	Partly sunny with showers	Partly sunny	Partly sunny
High 82 Low 62	High 79 Low 56	High 74 Low 56	High 76 Low 54	High 78 Low 56	High 78 Low 54	High 80 Low 53

National forecast

Forecast highs for Wednesday, Aug. 6



	YESTERDAY		TODAY		TOMORROW	
	H	Lo	H	Lo	H	Lo
Albany	83	63	79	66	Rain	78
Albuquerque	85	66	.02	89	66	PCldy
Amarillo	96	66	92	67	Clr	88
Anchorage	60	52	65	48	Clr	64
Asheville	92	63	90	65	PCldy	85
Atlanta	92	75	98	75	PCldy	94
Atlantic City	87	65	91	68	PCldy	88
Austin	97	70	90	72	Rain	95
Buffalo	85	68	80	65	Clr	77
Burlington, Vt.	80	61	71	63	Rain	73
Casper	92	57	98	57	PCldy	89
Charleston, S.C.	97	76	100	80	Clr	96
Charleston, W. Va.	80	68	.66	84	70	PCldy
Charlotte, N.C.	95	69	97	71	PCldy	91
Evansville	93	71	91	73	PCldy	88
Fairbanks	56	49	.32	58	41	Clr
Fargo	83	55	82	56	PCldy	79
Flagstaff	75	56	78	56	PCldy	76
Grand Rapids	87	69	.17	82	64	PCldy
Great Falls	89	50	90	51	PCldy	95
Greensboro, N.C.	96	71	96	71	Clr	89
New York City	86	69	86	70	Rain	84
Norfolk, Va.	87	76	93	76	PCldy	87
North Platte	84	65	.01	82	64	Rain
Oklahoma City	104	76	98	73	PCldy	91
Omaha	84	72	84	67	Rain	84
Orlando	93	75	94	74	PCldy	93
Pendleton	98	58	.08	97	61	Clr
Philadelphia	88	69	92	68	PCldy	88
Richmond	90	72	94	73	PCldy	90
San Juan, P.R.	89	79	91	78	PCldy	91
Santa Fe	82	60	.21	87	60	PCldy
Syracuse	84	57	82	65	PCldy	79
Tampa	89	75	92	76	PCldy	92
Topeka	91	80	.05	88	71	Rain
Tucson	100	80	101	76	PCldy	100
Tulsa	102	83	97	77	PCldy	89

NEW YORK

Today will be partly sunny and breezy with highs in the lower 80s.

Tonight will be partly cloudy with lows in the mid-50s.

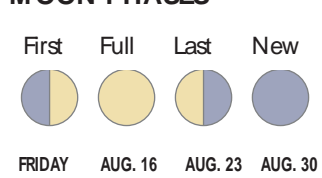
Thursday will be partly sunny with a chance of showers and thunderstorms with highs around 80. Chance of rain is 30 percent.

Thursday night will be partly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and lows in the mid-50s.

WEATHER HISTORY

In 1988, severe thunderstorms produced large hail and damaging winds in Pennsylvania and New York state. A cold front crossing the northwestern U.S. produced wind gusts to 66 mph at Livingston, Mont.

MOON PHASES



SUNRISE | SUNSET

Sunrise today	6:07
Sunset today	8:21
Sunrise Thursday	6:08
Sunset Thursday	8:19

CONGRESS

Continued from 1A

Both men also agree the high price of oil is the biggest concern now on the minds of Americans.

They also subscribe to the idea that conservation and energy efficient practices help Americans deal with high gas prices. In addition, the two political rivals believe clean, alternative energy sources must be developed to wean the country off of oil dependence.

But their like-mindedness ends with how to solve the energy crisis, especially in the short-term.

Like most Republicans, Kuhl believes the high cost of oil is driven by supply and demand, whereas Massa said the weakened dollar is responsible for Americans paying more at the pump.

Kuhl supports an aggressive drilling plan that includes opening up offshore areas, accessing the Alaskan National Wildlife Refuge and building more refineries. It's a notion that three out of four Americans support.

Massa said Tuesday he is not opposed to drilling, but it should be done on the 68 mil-

lion acres of land already leased by oil companies, which includes some offshore areas.

Areas that are currently restricted, like ANWR, should remain off limits to provide a future oil source if needed, he said.

The candidates for the 29th Congressional District also disagree on how long it would take for consumers to see the benefits of a drilling initiative.

If drilling were to begin, Massa claims it will take several years before any oil would add to the national supply. Kuhl has said the timetable would be a matter of months, in some instances.

Massa said Tuesday that domestic drilling for oil will fall far short of what is needed to dramatically bring down the market price. He also said that since oil is a commodity, it could be sold abroad instead of helping the country's needs.

Kuhl counters that legislation could prevent the sale of domestic oil if a decision to drill was made.

Massa claims more immediate relief for American consumers would come from tapping into the Strategic

Petroleum Reserve, which can hold up to 727 million barrels of oil and is nearly at capacity. Doing that would put oil on line in a matter of weeks.

A bill, H.R. 6578, to take light crude oil from the reserve and replace it with heavier grade that could be used by the military in the time of need, received majority support in the House last month. However, it failed to receive the required two-thirds majority needed to pass. Kuhl voted against the bill.

The two candidates, who ran a tight contest in 2006 and face each other in the Nov. 4 election, also differ on pinning costs on oil companies that have reaped record profits during the energy crisis.

"I don't believe we can tax our way to lower gas prices either, but I do believe in responsible royalties," Massa said.

He explained oil companies are not paying a fair share of royalties when drilling on federal land. Kuhl has said Democrats seek to tax oil companies, which would create an expense that would be passed down to consumers.

TRAFFIC

Continued from 1A

To handle the thousands of vehicles going to and from the track, the Schuyler County Sheriff's Office said traffic patterns will be altered on many roads in that area.

From 6 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday, county Route 16 will be used as one-way traffic.

Two lanes will run from state Route 414 to Gate 2 of the Watkins Glen International race track and two lanes from Townsend Road to Kuhl Winner Way.

There will still be one lane of traffic running from Bronson Hill Road to Townsend Road.

The sheriff's office is also advising residents who live along county Route 16 between county Route 17 and Meads Hill Road to trav-

el west to Meads Hill Road and go north to state Route 329 into Watkins Glen or to turn left on Meads Hill Road and to take Wedgewood Road onto state Route 414.

Travelers can then turn right for Corning or left to Watkins Glen or Montour Falls.

Those living between Meads Hill Road and the race track are being asked to get on Townsend Road, then take Watkins-Townsend Road to Watkins Glen.

Later on in the day, there will be other changes. At 4 p.m., one-way traffic will continue on county Route 16 with three lanes coming from the race track toward state Route 414. Traffic will then proceed in two lanes into Watkins Glen.

There will be one-way traffic in two lanes, on Kuhl

Winner Way going from Gate 6 of the track to state Route 414, and two lanes running from Gates 4 and 5 on Kuhl Winner Way to county Route 16. Traffic is expected to last for more than three hours.

All traffic coming off from Kuhl Winner Way will be three lanes and diverted in Townsend to county Route 16, county Route 19 or the Watkins-Townsend Road, preferably through the State Park, to the Station Road and down into the village through Steuben Street.

An ambulance and a fire truck will be stationed on Bronson Hill Road for the safety of residents in the area. Sheriff's patrols will also be in the area.

For any other questions, contact Sheriff William E. Yessman Jr. at 535-8222.

WOOD

Continued from 1A

and dipped into large ceramic bowls sitting inside the furnace, filled with molten clear and colored glass. They used it to create vessels in a style similar to what was produced by glassblowers centuries ago in Italy and Europe.

At one point, the glassblowers drizzled hot glass

over some of the pottery as a glaze.

Using a traditional, hands-on process that requires constant adjustments — i.e., stuffing logs into a furnace — is a great learning experience, Herbst said.

"We can't just digitally program the temperature," he said.

Next year, the college and

CMoG's glassblowing studio plan to offer a class that will use the furnace.

And, Gibbs said, the furnace will be fired up for demonstrations on the first night of the Glass Art Society's annual conference, which will be held in Corning next June and figures to draw glass artists from all over the world.