

NEWS DIGEST



Virgin Islands hit by Hurricane Bertha

1 CHARLOTTE AMALIE, U.S. Virgin Islands (AP) — Hurricane Bertha slammed into the Virgin Islands on Monday with torrential rains and winds that gusted to 103 mph.

The first hurricane of the Atlantic season poured over a string of northeastern Caribbean islands, growing to a 460-mile-wide menace heading directly for St. Thomas, the main U.S. Virgin Island.

At 5 p.m. EDT Monday, Bertha was 50 miles northeast of San Juan, Puerto Rico. It was moving northwest at 17 mph, packing sustained winds of 90 mph.

Up to 8 inches of rain and sea surges up to 4 feet high were expected in Puerto Rico.

Bertha was not expected to hit the U.S. mainland, but the U.S. Hurricane Center in Miami told southeastern coastal cities to keep an eye on the storm.

Bird in engine causes pilot to abort takeoff

2 NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — A Boeing 737 ran off a runway Monday when a bird was sucked into one of the plane's engines and the pilot aborted the takeoff.

Southwest Airlines flight 436 to Chicago was halfway down the runway of Nashville International Airport when the bird became caught in the engine on the plane's left side.

The pilot slammed on the brakes when a monitor sounded a warning, Southwest spokeswoman Janna Lewis said. All the tires under the plane's wings were flattened by the intense braking.

The plane ended up 500 to 800 feet off the end of the runway.

Two of the 122 passengers had minor injuries from sliding down evacuation chutes.

Trees cut down after error in 1956 survey

3 GRANTS PASS (AP) — An old surveying error allowed logging of a strip of trees inside the border of a wilderness area on the Fremont National Forest in Eastern Oregon.

The problem dates back to a survey done in 1956 by a private contractor establishing the corners of the Gearhart Mountain Wilderness, located outside the town of Bly. It was set aside from logging by Congress in 1964.

An error in setting boundary markers allowed logging within a strip 2.75 miles long and 8 feet to 48 feet wide along the western boundary of the wilderness, Rose said.

About a mile of the strip borders private land owned by Weyerhaeuser Co. The rest borders national forest. Both Weyerhaeuser and the Forest Service logged inside the strip.

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