

WORLD IN BRIEF

Associated Press

Surge, wind, rain, floods: Hurricane Florence could hit hard

RALEIGH, N.C. — Hurricane Florence churned today toward an Eastern Seaboard landfall as a million people were ordered to leave the coast and millions more prepared for what could be one of the most catastrophic hurricanes to hit the region in decades.

This hurricane's size is "staggering," National Hurricane Center Director Ken Graham warned — so wide that 12-foot seas are being pushed 300 miles ahead of its eye and entire states will be deluged for days.

"This one really scares me," Graham said. "You're going to get heavy rain, catastrophic life-threatening storm surge, and also the winds."

There was little change in Florence's track. Sustained winds were 130 mph this morning, but it remains a Category 4 storm and is expected to intensify to near Category 5 status as it slows over very warm coastal waters.

The storm is currently around 400 miles south of Bermuda and is moving at 16 mph.

The center of the massive storm is forecast to make landfall late Thursday or early Friday along a stretch of coastline already saturated by rising seas, and then meander for days, inundating several states and triggering life-threatening floods.

Seven-day rainfall totals are forecast to reach 10 to 20 inches over much of North Carolina and Virginia, and even 30 inches in some places. Combined with high tides, the storm surge could swell as high as 12 feet.

President Donald Trump declared states of emergency for North and South Carolina, facilitating federal help, and canceled campaign events Thursday and Friday, citing the storm.

Rights groups warn against US flouting international court

ISLAMABAD — Afghan rights workers warned today that the U.S. national security adviser's blistering attack on the International Criminal Court investigating war crimes allegations will strengthen a climate of impunity in Afghanistan, prolonging the war and emboldening those carrying out acts of violence.

In a speech Monday, John Bolton said Washington would not cooperate with The Hague-based court and threatened it with sanctions, saying it put U.S. sovereignty and national security at risk.

US marks 9/11 anniversary with somber tributes

NEW YORK — Americans looked back on 9/11 today with solemn ceremonies, volunteer service and a presidential tribute to "the moment when America fought back" on one of the hijacked planes used as weapons in the deadliest terror attack on U.S. soil.

Thousands of 9/11 victims' relatives, survivors, rescuers and others who gathered on a misty morning at the memorial plaza where the World Trade Center's twin towers once stood. President Donald Trump and Vice President Mike Pence headed to the two other places where hijacked planes crashed on Sept. 11, 2001: a Pennsylvania field and the Pentagon.

Seventeen years after losing her husband, Margie Miller went to the New York City ceremony from her home in suburban Baldwin.

"To me, he is here. This is my holy place," she said before the hours-long reading of the names of the nearly 3,000 dead, including her husband, Joel Miller.

The president and first lady Melania joined an observance at the Sept. 11 memorial in a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania, where one of the jetliners fell to the ground after 40 passengers and crew members realized hijackers had taken control and tried to storm



AP Photo/Evan Vucci

Family members of Flight 93 listen during a memorial service today in Shanksville, Pa.

the cockpit.

Calling it "the moment when America fought back," Trump said the fallen "took control of their destiny and changed the course of history" ... They "joined the immortal ranks of American heroes."

Pence recalled the heroism of service members and civilians who repeatedly went back into the Pentagon to

rescue survivors.

The terrorists "hoped to break our spirit, and they failed," he said.

The 9/11 commemorations are by now familiar rituals, centered on reading the names of the dead. But each year at ground zero, victims' relatives infuse the ceremony with personal messages of remembrance, inspiration and concern.

War crimes allegations in Afghanistan include those allegedly committed by the CIA and U.S. forces.

"It's very unfortunate because delivering justice to victims will help to facilitate the peace process in Afghanistan," said Sima Samar, head of Afghanistan's Human Rights Commission. "Justice is not a luxury. It is a basic human right."

During a three-month period that ended in January, the International Criminal Court received a staggering 1.7 million allegations of war crimes from Afghanistan, although some involved entire villages alleging a war crime.

Still, thousands of individual statements as well as statements filed on behalf of multiple victims, were received by the ICC in The Hague. The statements were collected by organizations based in Europe and Afghanistan and sent to the court.

Bolton's speech came as an ICC judge was expected to soon announce a decision on a request from prosecutors to formally open an investigation into allegations of war crimes committed by Afghan national security forces, Taliban and Haqqani network militants as well as U.S. forces and intelligence officials in Afghanistan since May 2003.

Festival: 'A perfect storm of unexpected things popped up at the last minute'

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"A perfect storm of unexpected things popped up at the last minute, and I thought it was wiser to give ourselves more time to put on a better event than to force this event," Mico said.

A relatively cold and rainy August made Mico anxious about whether good weather would hold out until the end of September. Delaying the event also means the organization will now only have to pay for event insurance required by the city once to cover both this year's

and next year's festivals. The original date lined up with other deadlines in such a way that the organization would have had to pay the \$600 permit twice in one year — an amount, Mico said, that would have eaten into the profit she expected to make at the inaugural event.

"It's not a huge chunk of change, but it's not insignificant," she said. "I would rather give that \$600 to a band or for scholarships."

Above all, lack of interest is the largest driver of the delay, Mico said. With only two weeks until the show, only a

few tickets had been sold.

"I think events are better when they are organic, grassroots," Mico said. "I want to spend more time getting people excited."

Mico instead is opting for a smaller, winter event held indoors at the gallery to drum

up community interest. After the event gets established, Mico still hopes to coordinate with other local musicians and non-profits to expand it and share the donations.

"We are new at this," Mico said. "We don't want to rush this. We want to do it right."

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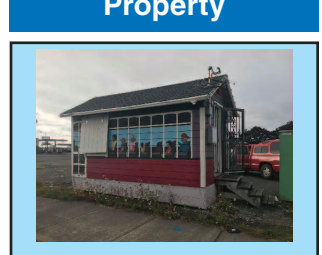
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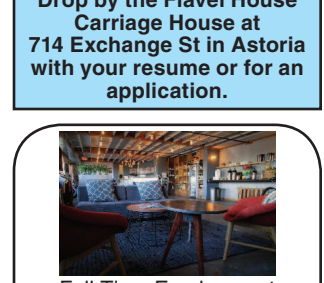
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AA/EOE

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