

Hurricane Wilma Slams Florida

5.9 million people left with no electricity

(AP) - Floridians lined up for water, gas, ice and generators Tuesday outside the few stores that were open after Hurricane Wilma cut a costly, deadly swath across the peninsula.

The storm slammed across the state in about seven hours Monday, causing billions in insured damage and leaving 5.9 million people, or a little less than 3 million homes and businesses, without electricity. More than 5,000 residents remained in shelters Tuesday as the hurricane's remnants headed toward the North Atlantic.

Wilma was blamed for at least five deaths in Florida. Earlier, authorities reported six deaths in the state but on Tuesday they revised the to five deaths.

Officials of Florida's three most populous areas - Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties - prepared to distribute ice, water and other essentials to residents Tuesday, while utilities warned that restoration of services could



stretch into weeks.

"It will be days or weeks before we are back to normal," Miami-Dade Mayor Carlos Alvarez said.

Before smashing into Florida, Wilma killed at least six people in Mexico, one person in Jamaica and 12 people in Haiti.

The storm devastated resort towns along Mexico's Caribbean coast, severely flooding the tourist hotspot Cancun, where looters ransacked entire blocks of stores. Thousands of tourists remained stranded along the resort-studded Yucatan coast Tuesday.

Francisco Reyes hands Jose Salmeron (right) personal items from his destroyed mobile home in Clewiston, Fla., one day after Hurricane Wilma came through South Florida. (AP photo)

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White House Dodges CIA Questions

Speculation on Cheney's involvement

(AP) - The White House on Tuesday sidestepped questions about whether Vice President Dick Cheney passed on to his top aide the identity of a CIA officer central to a federal grand jury probe.

Notes in the hands of a federal prosecutor suggest that Cheney's chief of staff, I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby, first heard of the CIA officer from Cheney himself. The New York Times reported in Tuesday's edi-



Vice President Dick Cheney

tions. A federal prosecutor is investigating whether the officer's identity was improperly disclosed.

The Times said notes of a previously undisclosed June 12, 2003, conversation between Libby and Cheney appear to differ from Libby's grand jury testimony that he first heard of Valerie Plame from journalists.

"This is a question relating to an ongoing investigation and we're not having any further comment on the investigation while it's ongoing," White House press secretary Scott McClellan said.

Pressed about Cheney's knowledge about the CIA officer, McClellan said: "I think you're prejudging things and speculating and we're not going to prejudice or speculate about things."



A pair of boots representing one of many United States military personnel killed in the Iraq war. The boots are part of the traveling exhibit "Eyes Wide Open," sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee, a Quaker group that opposes the Iraq war. (AP Photo)

U.S. Death Toll in Iraq Tops 2,000

(AP) - The U.S. military death toll reached 2,000 with the death of an Army sergeant who was wounded by a roadside bomb north of Baghdad and died in Texas last weekend.

A Pentagon announcement Tuesday said Staff Sgt. George T. Alexander Jr., 34, of Killeen, Texas, died in San Antonio, Texas. The death raised the Associated Press tally of military fatalities in the Iraq war to 2,000.

Alexander was wounded Oct. 17 in Samarra, a town 60 miles north of the Iraqi capital. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division at Fort Benning, Ga.

TV Air Date Set for Asia Bell Story

The Maury Povich Show will feature the Asia Bell story on Monday, Nov. 7 on Portland's KWBP channel 32 in a segment called "Families in Crisis." The talk show airs weekdays at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Bell, a 23-year-old north Portland resident, was murdered on Nov. 20, 2002 in a shooting. Her husband, Tyrone James, was



Asia Bell

blinded from gunshot wounds and Robert Milhouse, a friend, was also wounded. Police still haven't found any suspects.

The Bell-James family hopes their television appearance will shed more light on their personal story, as well as other senseless acts of violence in the nation that have yet to be solved.

For more information, visit www.mauryshow.com.

Rev. A. Leon Lowry Dies at 92

Civil rights leader taught King

(AP) - The Rev. A. Leon Lowry, a prominent local civil rights leader who once taught Martin Luther King Jr. and led the desegregation of public facilities in Tampa, Fla. has died at 92.

Lowry died Saturday of congestive heart failure. He had been admitted to St. Joseph's Hospital last week, said his wife, Shirley.

Lowry's association with the civil rights movement dated to the 1940s when he taught theology at Morehouse College and King was one of his students.

In the 1960s, he led peaceful protests at Tampa lunch counters and helped found Tampa's first biracial bank.

He became president of the Florida NAACP and in 1976 was the first African-American

elected to the Hillsborough County School Board, where he served for 16 years. The Florida Bar awarded him a medal of honor for easing racial tensions and promoting social justice.

Until he was hospitalized, Lowry had continued counseling jail inmates, commuting by scooter because hip problems prevented driving.

"That was just his whole life," his wife said. "He always wanted to help people."

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