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The Palm Beach Post

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Melissa nears Jamaica as powerful Category 5



The wind shakes palm trees Oct. 26 ahead of Hurricane Melissa in the coastal town of Hellshire, Jamaica.

OCTAVIO JONES/REUTERS

Forecasters warn of major flooding, waves, landslides

Christopher Cann and Doyle Rice
USA TODAY

As Hurricane Melissa barreled toward Jamaica on Oct. 27, the nation braced for possibly its worst hurricane in recorded history, evacuating parts of its capital, closing airports and opening

more than 800 shelters.

Melissa, a Category 5 storm, was expected to slam into the southern coast of Jamaica on Oct. 28 before approaching Cuba as a major hurricane and crossing the Bahamas, forecasters said. Melissa poses no threat to the United States.

Fueled by the warm waters of the Caribbean, the storm underwent explosive growth over the weekend, its wind speed doubling. Further strengthening was expected, forecasters said.

As of midday Oct. 27, the storm had

See MELISSA, Page 8A

Torrential rains linger in ‘bull’s-eye’ over Boca, flooding roadways, yards

Downpour sets record at airport in West Palm

Kimberly Miller
Palm Beach Post
USA TODAY NETWORK

The skies opened and bellowed for hours with torrential thunderstorms shutting down the Boca Raton Airport and setting a record in West Palm Beach

where 2.37 inches of rain fell in a 24-hour period beginning early on Oct. 26.

Stoked by a gooey warm ribbon of air stalled over Central Florida and a knotty trough of energy traveling fast and high overhead, the storms that convened along Palm Beach County’s coast triggered flash-flood warnings that cautioned 3 to 5 inches of rain had fallen in Boca Raton in a single hour with up to 2 more inches expected before midnight approached.

The warning was later slapped with the “considerable” label — a rare escalation issued when flash flooding is unusually severe.

“There was just a very isolated bull’s-eye over Boca Raton. If you were in Miami, you wouldn’t even know it was raining,” said National Weather Service meteorologist George Rizzuto. “These weather features co-located

See RAIN, Page 8A



As the government shutdown continues, more flights are being canceled and delayed due to air traffic controller shortages.

DANIEL COLE/REUTERS

Shutdown will affect food aid benefits

Trump’s overseas trip may delay Senate vote

Kathryn Palmer, Zac Anderson, Melina Khan and Terry Moseley
USA TODAY

The 42 million Americans who rely on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program will go without their benefits come Nov. 1 because of the on-going federal government shutdown, according to a new message from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

SNAP, also known as food stamps, is a federal program that provides low-income families monthly benefits to afford healthy food.

In recent weeks, the USDA — which oversees the program — warned that SNAP funds for November could be in jeopardy if the shutdown continues. But in a prominent new message on its website as of Oct. 27, USDA said no benefits will be issued Nov. 1.

The shutdown reached its 27th day on Oct. 27, and there’s little headway expected over the next few days, as President Donald Trump is away on a nearly weeklong foreign trip.

More than 700,000 federal workers have been furloughed, while nearly as many are working without pay. Employees deemed essential to public safety, including military personnel, law enforcement officers, border patrol and air traffic controllers, are required to work regardless.

Congressional leaders remain locked in a bitter stalemate over health care policy with no indications of a breakthrough on the disagreements that caused the government to close its doors on Oct. 1.

See SHUTDOWN, Page 8A

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