

Hurricane season ends with no U.S. storm impacts

By Hector Flores

The Atlantic hurricane season concluded on Nov. 30 with no tropical impacts anywhere in the United States. According to Emergency Management Director Parick Fuller, this season was the first since 2015 with no landfalling hurricanes in the U.S.

“The final tally was 13 named storms, five becoming hurricanes, of which four were major Category 3 or higher. There were three Category 5 storms, though nearly all the activity occurred far out to sea. Outside of the U.S., Hurricane Melissa devastated Jamaica as a strong Category 5 storm,” Fuller wrote in a message to county staff on Monday. He also conveyed his appreciation for all the preparation, training and awareness throughout the season.

I want to echo his gratitude to all residents and stakeholders who remained vigilant and prepared. The readiness you, your families and organizations embraced ensured we could respond to any tropical event and recover. Emergency Management will continue to monitor year-round for any hazard that may impact our area.

We will also continue the progress we’ve been making on our recovery projects. Community Services reported last week that staff have begun restocking library materials and furnishings at Mid-County Regional Library. Dugout shades have been replaced at Centennial Park, Harold Avenue Regional Park, and South County Regional Park. Work began at Carmalita Park on Monday and is scheduled to be completed on Dec. 19.

The County Commission at its most recent meeting directed staff to proceed with the design of the Englewood Beach boardwalk replacement. The board also approved a contract to repair and replace the South Gulf Cove Park boat ramp and boarding pier, which were damaged by Hurricane Milton.

Santa breakfast

The Charlotte County Public Safety Department invites you to its 26th annual Santa Pancake Breakfast from 9-11 a.m., Dec. 23 in the parking lot of the Charlotte County Public Safety Building, 26571 Airport Road, Punta Gorda, FL 33982.

Enjoy a free pancake breakfast sponsored by HCA Florida Fawcett Hospital, meet Santa when he arrives on a fire engine at 9:30 a.m., and take part in photos with Santa, children’s activities, live Christmas music, and demonstrations by Charlotte County Fire & EMS. Families can also explore equipment displays from the Charlotte County Sheriff’s Office, Utilities, and other county departments.

Readers may reach Charlotte County Administrator Hector Flores at Hector.Flores@CharlotteCountyFL.gov.