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AROUND THE NATION

4 Florida Counties To Get Aid

MIAMI — President Bush declared Sunday that four Florida counties hit hardest by Tropical Storm Fay are major disaster areas, making them eligible for federal aid.

The declaration makes funds available for emergency work and repairs to governments in Brevard, Monroe, Okeechobee and St. Lucie counties.

State and federal emergency officials are still assessing the damage from the weeklong storm that caused at least 11 deaths in Florida and one each in Georgia and Alabama. More counties could be added.

The funding has not yet been extended to individual homeowners whose properties were damaged by high winds or floodwaters.

Fay was downgraded to a tropical depression Saturday night after making a record fourth landfall in Florida. Its remnants were forecast to dump several inches of rain across Alabama, Mississippi, eastern Louisiana and Tennessee on Sunday and Monday.

Gas Down 15 Cents in 2 Weeks

CAMARILLO, Calif. — A national survey shows gasoline prices have dropped 15 cents a gallon in the last two weeks.

The average price of a gallon of regular gas was \$3.70 Friday. Mid-grade was at \$3.83 and premium was at \$3.95. That's according to the Lundberg Survey of 7,000 gas stations nationwide, released Sunday. Diesel was at \$3.82.

The California average was \$3.94, down 16 cents from two weeks ago.

Gas was cheapest in St. Louis, Mo., at \$3.37 for a gallon of regular. It was most expensive in Anchorage, Alaska, at \$4.34.

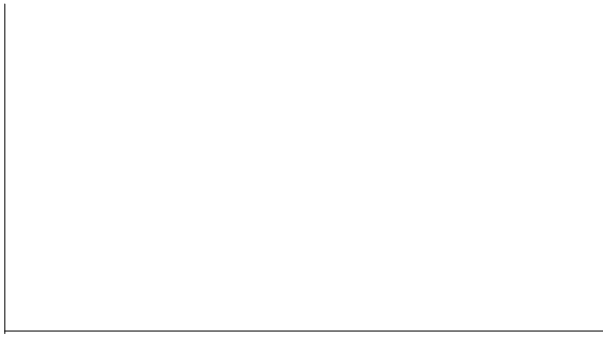
Couple Offered Sex with Girl, 5

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — A San Antonio couple is accused of trying to trade sex with the woman's 5-year-old daughter for an apartment, a used car and child care for her 10-month-old daughter.

Jennifer Richards, 25, and her married boyfriend, Sean Michael Block, 40, appeared before U.S. Magistrate Judge Nancy Stein Nowak on Friday. Richards is charged with using interstate facilities to transmit information about a minor. Block is charged with distributing child pornography.

Nowak ordered Block held. Richards' detention hearing was delayed until Tuesday, the San Antonio Express-News reported Sunday.





PHIL COALE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS Jim Robertson walks along a downed pine tree to survey the damage to his apartment on Sunday in Tallahassee, Fla. The tree fell on Saturday as Tropical Storm Fay moved through the area.