

Shania Twain

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- ★ Shania Twain in Concert ★
- ★ 8 p.m., September 9 ★
- ★ Reed Arena ★

Del Rio residents recover from Charley

DEL RIO (AP) — As flood waters receded Tuesday, camouflage-dressed searchers accompanied by dogs worked their way around muddy, debris-strewn streets to poke through homes looking for bodies.

An earlier estimate of 30 missing people was lowered to an unspecified number, authorities said, although law officers continued to search by land and by air for victims who might be missing or dead.

"There are people missing and we are looking," U.S. Border Patrol spokesperson Paty Mancha said. "We're compiling shelter lists and comparing those to missing lists. Everybody doesn't have access to a phone and that is a real problem."

Six people were killed in the flooding in Del Rio, Lt. Judy Altom of the Texas Department of Public Safety said.

The hardest-hit area was a neighborhood of mostly poor people near San Felipe Creek, a normally placid stream that roared over its bank and into homes during a downpour caused by the remnant of Tropical Storm Charley.

Entire houses were washed away. Others had roofs or walls ripped off. Cars and pickup trucks were overturned or carried away by flood waters. Personal belongings — panty

hose, beads, shoes, a trophy, a Bible — were strewn about the streets or crammed against chain-link fences.

A Christmas tree and a strand of blue lights lay near one home. A ceramic mold of praying hands sat in the middle of a street.

Above San Felipe Creek, helicopters flown by the Border Patrol

"Their houses are destroyed. Some of the people lost their loved ones. They're feeling really low."

— Robert Chavira
Del Rio mayor

and the Texas Army National Guard hovered as officers looked over the debris-covered landscape for victims. Along the creek, small teams of Border Patrol and Department of Public Safety (DPS) officers searched on foot, some using dogs. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department used boats to patrol the creek.

The Mexican government said three people were killed in Ciudad Acuna, across the Rio Grande. Five people died in flood-related

deaths over the weekend in the Texas Hill Country.

Although two-thirds of the city was under water Monday, the water had receded Tuesday, and the city began looking toward the cleanup.

Some 400 homes sustained damage, Del Rio mayor Robert Chavira said.

"Their houses are destroyed. Some of the people lost their loved ones," Chavira said. "They're feeling really low. They're feeling 'Where do we go from here?'"

Early Tuesday, only a few dogs roamed the roads of Del Rio's San Felipe neighborhood. Approximately 700 people had spent the night in shelters because their homes were damaged by flooding.

One by one, residents began to come back to check on their property if the police, DPS or Border Patrol would let them past barricades.

"I was glad I got my family out," resident Larry Martinez said as he opened the doors of his small home to "air out" the smell of rotten food seeping from his refrigerator. "I don't really care about the damage."

Martinez and his wife and children helped another family with five children escape in the rising water. They also grabbed two

youngsters floating in a dress after their parents

them, he said. Still hanging above door was an upside-down shoe for good luck. Maria

his head. "It's no good luck. What I saw that night, no luck."

Maria and Frank walked along the creek looking for Frank's wife, his 80s. His house was by the water and he heard whether he made

"We don't know if he caught him asleep in the Esquivel said. "We don't

In Brown Plaza, a park in the neighborhood, many remained standing. In the surrounding area, many were damaged or destroyed. Worked to repair the

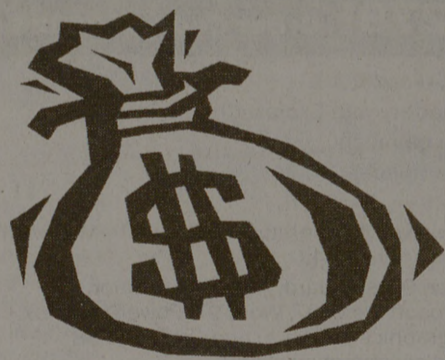
Electricity had been an estimated 90 percent town of 34,000 by Tuesday

Residents continued to drink and cooking. mately 200,000 gallons being shipped into Del Rio help of the state and

WELCOME BACK AGGIES...COME ENJOY

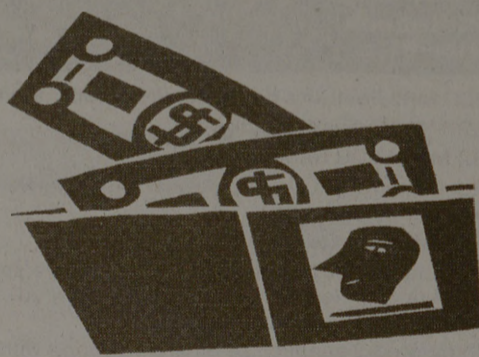
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