Gert strengthens in Atlant

MIAMI (AP) — Foul weather building in the Gulf of Mexico yesterday threatened to form Tropical into Harvey late Sunday or early Monday, forecasters said.

Though upper-level winds Storm Harvey.

Meanwhile, Hurricane Gert, with 130-mph winds, loomed a threat to Bermuda.

Forecasters at the National Hurricane Center expected to post a storm warning or watch for the northern and eastern Gulf Coast late yesterday with a tropical depression circulating off the Florida coast with 35-mph winds.

The system should come ashore north of Tampa, cross the Florida peninsula tomorrow and shoot into the Atlantic with 55 to 60-mph winds but will not pose much of a rain threat to flooded areas of the Carolinas, hurricane specialist Brian Jarvinen said.

The storm will "be moving fairly briskly, and they (the Carolinas) would be on the drier side of the system when it came by," he said. "I wouldn't be expecting a whole heck of a lot of rain from this system.

Though upper-level winds were chopping off the tops of storm clouds keep the system in check, it was likely to strengthen have been told to watch Hurri-

Though upper-level winds were chopping off the tops of storm clouds early Sunday to keep the system in check, it was likely to strengthen into Harvey late Sunday or early Monday, forecasters said.

At 11 a.m. EDT, the system was centered about 335 miles southwest of St. Petersburg near 26.1 north latitude and 87.7 west longitude and moving north near 7

A trough over the continental United States is expected to slowly turn the system to the northeast, said Jarvinen.

'There's still some uncertainties about how strong it will be and when that turn will be," he 'We don't anticipate anything

happening really fast so people have plenty of time to do what they need to do." The outer reaches of the sys-

tem dumped an inch of rain on South Florida Saturday and yes-

Meanwhile, people in Bermuda

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2 p.m. EDT Tuesday 5 p.m. EDT Sunday n his tea

cane Gert centered at l about 600 miles sou Atlantic island, or 24.91 tude and 59.5 west lon

Gert was moving no 8 mph and was expec same for at least a day. Earlier in the week

top winds of up to 145 n ing the system the for ry 4 storm of the AtlantiThere's n cane season.

Hurricane season June 1 through Novembea long way

Hurricane Floyd hits North Caroli

mittent, much of the county is completely under water, roads are closed, grocery store shelves are empty and there is little gasoline available. Can it get worse? Yes.

"Everyone is figuring out their own survival."

> - Carl Campbell North Carolina resident

Greenville, a city of 44,000, faces still worse flooding when the Tar River crests today. And more rain could fall today and tomorrow

"Everyone is figuring out their own survival," Carl Campbell said yesterday as the river inched closer to his home and neighbors tried to save their belongings from their flooded homes.

Hurricane Floyd saturated eastern North Caroli-

na with 20 inches of rain last week on its v East Coast and flooding has virtually shu coastal plain east of Raleigh.

National Guard helicopters were used for stranded people and to shuttle food! towns where grocery shelves are bare. Drinkable water had to be rushed to seven

ties where wastewater treatment system About 300 roads, including parts of Inter and 40, were still closed yesterday, and ple remained in shelters.

At least 21 people are confirmed dead, a Pinetops family lost when they tried to flooded home in a boat early Thursday. unaccounted for.

They are among the at least 47 peop the Bahamas into New England.

And beyond North Carolina, thousand were still without electricity and phoparts of Virginia, Maryland, New Jerse nia and New York state.

President Clinton had declared the el thirds of North Carolina a disaster area a to tour flooded areas today.

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