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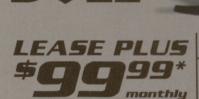
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ANDRES LEIGHTON . THE ASSOCIATED

shower while looking back at the outer storm swells of Hurricane
Frances at their beach about 45 miles east of San Juan, Puerto Rico,
for the Bahamas and the Southeastern United States

Residents of the coast town of Luquillo run away during a short. Tuesday, Hurricane Frances brushed Puerto Rico with pound

## Hurricane grazes Puerto Ria

By Manuel Ernesto Rivera THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LUQUILLO, Puerto Rico -Hurricane Frances strengthened to a dangerous Category 4 hurricane Tuesday, with sustained winds up to 140 mph. Many Puerto Ricans remained in their homes and prepared to ride out the winds and rains on the fringes of the hurricane.

"We're still recovering from the last floods in November. We're a bit nervous," said Fernando Morales, a truck driver who set his furniture on blocks to prevent damage. Last time, he said, water filled his home in the eastern town of Fajardo and destroyed all his belongings.

Surfers rode the hurricane's

some people concerned about coastal flooding sandbagged Though little damage was expected in the U.S. territory, many

offices and schools closed. Courts canceled session, and all 18 casinos in Puerto Rico were closed. Offices and schools also were closed in the U.S. Virgin Islands,

rains and gusty winds. The hurricane prompted tropical storm warnings for Puerto Rico, the British Virgin Islands, U.S. Virgin Islands and the north coast of the Dominican Republic.

The Bahamas issued a hurricane warning for its southeastern islands and a hurricane watch for its central islands. The storm was expected to plow into the chain

crashing swells Tuesday, while of more than 700 islands s ing Wednesday or Thurs A hurricane warning also

was urging people in the so eastern cays to move to la islands, said Carl Smith, the where the hurricane brought was Great Inagua, with a po

The Bahamian go

"We're reminding people get water, food supplies and teries, and to know what ter is close to their resider

At least 14 flights from Pu to Rico were canceled, said Fr Sosa, the general manager Luis Munoz Marin Internation Airport in San Juan.

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