

Money

▲ Dow 22,412.59 (+41.79) ▲ S&P500 2,508.24 (+1.59) ▼ NASDAQ 6,456.04 (-5.28) ■ OIL \$49.48/bbl. (unch.) ▲ 10-YR. NOTE 2.27% (+0.02)

FPL: Power 99.9 percent restored

Next phase is a home-by-home effort

By **MARCIA HEROUX POUNDS**
Staff writer

Florida Power & Light Co. says that eastern Florida is “essentially restored” at 99.9 percent.

As of Wednesday night, Broward County still had 70 homes and businesses without power and Miami-Dade County had 380, according to FPL’s “power tracker” online.

“Our final phase of restoration

is a more lengthy, home-by-home effort, as we work exhaustively to ensure each customer has power,” said FPL spokesman Bryan Garner.

Palm Beach County now fully has its power back after last weekend’s Hurricane Irma, according to FPL. The county was “more than” 99 percent completed on Tuesday, but there were still some customers with damage or other special situations.

In Broward, more than 99 percent is restored and Miami-Dade is more than 99 percent restored, according to FPL.

Palm Beach and Broward residents who didn’t have power on Tuesday asserted they felt they were lied to by FPL, which was only providing county-wide estimates for restoration online or on the phone, and missed those. It had given Palm Beach County residents a restoration estimate of Sunday evening.

“FPL follows an overall restoration plan that calls for restoring

service to the greatest number of customers in the shortest time,” Garner said. Earlier in the week, FPL apologized for its customer communications systems failure and said that after this restoration, it would work to improve.

The utility tweeted Wednesday morning that more than 6,500 workers were moving to the hardest-hit parts of Miami-Dade. The utility has had more than 20,000 from around the country and even Canada working to restore power in Florida after the hurricane.

Statewide, FPL still has 55,050

homes and businesses without power after Hurricane Irma, but has restored 96.8 percent. The most outages left are in Lee and Collier counties in Southwest Florida, which experienced hurricane-force winds and flooding.

FPL provides power to 4.9 million homes and businesses, which is about about 10 million people, in more than half the state; of those, 4.5 million were affected by Hurricane Irma.

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CHIP SOMODEVILLA/GETTY IMAGES

Carmelo Mota searches for tools in his roofless bedroom more than a week after Hurricane Irma made landfall in Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands.

South Florida seeks Amazon headquarters

Business leaders plan regional bid

By **LARRY BARSZEWSKI**
Staff writer

South Florida, the land of second homes for winter-weary northerners, hopes to persuade Seattle-based Amazon that it is the perfect location for the online shipping giant’s second North American headquarters.

Economic development leaders say landing the \$5 billion development would be transformational for South Florida, creating an “international technology hub” with all the ancillary businesses that would follow the company to the region.

The 8-million-square-foot, 50,000-employee campus Amazon envisions would be four times the size of the former IBM complex in Boca Raton and would have five times the number of workers that IBM employed



LISA WERNER/GETTY IMAGES

Amazon is looking for up to 100 acres for a new 8-million-square-foot, 50,000-employee campus.

there during its heyday in the 1980s.

Local business leaders have decided a team effort is needed to beat out the heavy competition from across the country and Canada, so the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance in Broward County, the Business Development Board of Palm Beach County and The Beacon Council in Miami-Dade County are putting together a joint proposal.

They’re hoping that

See **AMAZON, 10B**

Hotels post strong showing in August

But Irma could erode summer gains

By **ARLENE SATCHELL**
Staff writer

South Florida’s hotel industry gains in occupancy and room rates this summer, which continued into August, will likely be eroded this month as many beachfront hotels had to evacuate guests to prepare for Hurricane Irma.

That meant lost room, food and beverage revenues from shortened or canceled stays because of the hurricane. And while the final bill for Irma’s unwelcome visit is still to be tallied, ripple effects are expected for the lodging industry.

On the bright side, South Florida hotels were fuller in August and charged higher room rates than a year ago, fueled in part by business from sports and corporate groups, conventions and family reunions.

The local hotel industry also benefited in part from the absence of any reoccurring outbreak of the mosquito-borne Zika virus, which was a major concern for tourism last summer.

In Broward County, hotel occupancy climbed to 74.9 percent from 72.9 percent in August 2016, while average

See **HOTELS, 10B**

NOTE TO READERS

Doreen Christensen is on vacation. Her Daily Deal will resume on Sept. 27.

FEMA charters cruise ship for relief housing

Grand Celebration to be floating hotel for National Guard in U.S. Virgin Islands

By **ARLENE SATCHELL**
Staff writer

Port of Palm Beach’s sole cruise ship — Grand Celebration — will begin a three-month sabbatical Saturday when it arrives in St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands on a hurricane relief mission, its operator Bahamas Paradise Cruise Line said.

The 750-cabin cruise ship, which can accommodate up to 1,900 passengers, is being chartered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency to house National Guard members helping island residents to rebuild following damage caused by Hurricane Irma.

St. Thomas was also facing an additional threat from Hurricane Maria, now barreling through the eastern Caribbean. Maria already has done significant damage in Puerto Rico and Dominica.

“We are providing housing, meals and other hotel services to the first responders,” said Maria Miller, the cruise line’s chief marketing officer, in an email Wednesday. “The ship will be their ‘home base’ over the course of the charter.”



STAFF FILE PHOTO

The 750-cabin Grand Celebration cruise ship is being chartered by FEMA to house National Guard members helping island residents to rebuild.

While Bahamas Paradise would not discuss the value of the FEMA charter, Miller said the company was being compensated to cover its “loss of business and revenue over the period.”

Grand Celebration is expected to remain in St. Thomas through late December, the cruise company said. The ship’s regular two-night sailings from the Riviera Beach seaport to Freeport, Grand Bahama Island, should resume on Dec. 23.

Customers who already have purchased Bahamas cruises directly from the cruise line for departures during the charter period are being offered refunds or a \$100 onboard spending credit if they re-book for a

later date.

“We will be reaching out to all of our guests and travel partners this week,” said company CEO Oneil Khosa in a statement. “We feel badly about this 90-day disruption but believe the extensive needs of the St. Thomas people to be of greater importance at this time.”

On Thursday and Friday, Bahamas Paradise offered a special \$39 per person nightly rate for cabins on Grand Celebration to local residents seeking a cool refuge from overheated homes that lost power or sustained damage during Irma.

Other South Florida-based cruise

See **FEMA, 10B**

Shortage of listings is pushing home prices higher

Sales of single-family homes declined in August

By **PAUL OWERS**
Staff writer

A lackluster supply of available homes is slowing sales across South Florida, but the shortage of listings also keeps pushing prices higher as buyers have little choice but to pay more for what they want.

Sales of existing, single-family homes declined in August from a year earlier in Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade counties, ac-

ording to figures released Wednesday by local Realtor boards.

It was the second consecutive annual decline in Palm Beach and Miami-Dade counties and the fifth in a row in Broward.

Across the three counties, buyers are finding fewer single-family listings in lower price ranges. In Broward, for instance, available homes priced from \$200,000 to \$249,999 dropped 14 percent in Au-

gust from a year ago. Palm Beach County saw a 16 percent decline in that price range.

“What’s ailing the housing market and continues to weigh on overall sales is the inadequate levels of available inventory and the upward pressure it’s putting on prices in several parts of the country,” Lawrence Yun, chief economist for the National Association of Realtors, said in a statement. “Sales have been unable to

break out because there are simply not enough homes for sale.”

The median price in Broward last month was \$350,000, up 8 percent from a year ago, according to the Realtors of the Palm Beaches and Greater Fort Lauderdale. Palm Beach County’s median price also rose 8 percent, to \$340,000.

Miami-Dade’s median was \$337,500 as sellers enjoyed a 13 percent bump, according to the Miami Association of Realtors, although the board added that collection of the August data was

affected by Hurricane Irma preparations and extended power outages.

Median prices have been on the rise in the tricity region since 2012.

Douglas Rill, a broker with Century 21 America’s Choice in West Palm Beach, said he tells clients looking for homes that they have to be prepared to make offers at any moment.

“Buyers need to focus on ready, aim, fire,” Rill said. “They need to be on the starting line, already pre-qualified, ready to go every day.”

Rill said the market is stacked against buyers, so they need to find whatever edge they can.

He encouraged clients to make offers in the days before Irma hit because he figured other buyers would put their house-hunting on hold to deal with storm preparations.

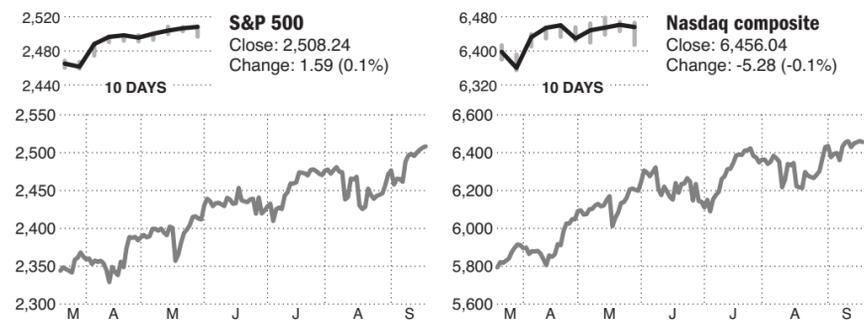
“And it worked,” Rill said, pointing out that one of his buyers made an offer that was accepted on a single-family home in a 55-and-over community in

See **HOMES, 10B**

Markets

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US Indexes	High	52-Week Low	Last	Net chg	1 day %chg	3-mo %chg	Wk	Mo	Qtr	12-mo %Chg
Dow Jones Indus.	22386.01	17883.56	22412.59	+41.79	+0.19%	+4.68%	▲	▲	▲	+22.52%
Dow Jones Transport.	9763.66	7777.06	9654.37	+147.29	+1.55%	+3.89%	▲	▲	▲	+21.72%
Dow Jones Utility	755.37	616.19	731.61	-5.08	-0.69%	+2.4%	▼	▼	▼	+5.64%
NYSE composite	12137.60	10281.48	12147.50	+15.77	+0.13%	+3.86%	▲	▲	▲	+13.44%
Nasdaq composite	6477.77	5034.41	6456.04	-5.28	-0.08%	+3.56%	▼	▼	▼	+21.92%
S&P 500	2508.32	2084.59	2508.24	+1.59	+0.06%	+2.98%	▲	▲	▲	+15.95%
S&P Mid cap 400	1795.14	1475.38	1766.97	+5.45	+0.31%	+1.85%	▲	▲	▲	+14.39%
Wilshire 5000	26033.75	21583.94	26050.03	+26.80	+0.10%	+3.08%	▲	▲	▲	+15.75%
Russell 2000	1452.09	1156.08	1445.42	+5.02	+0.35%	+3.30%	▲	▲	▲	+16.10%
S&P 100	1109.94	923.69	1110.16	+0.90	+0.08%	+3.32%	▲	▲	▲	+15.97%
Nasdaq 100	6012.95	4647.59	5973.61	-17.47	-0.29%	+3.31%	▼	▼	▼	+23.07%
S&P SmallCap 600	878.35	702.99	869.16	+3.18	+0.37%	+3.20%	▲	▲	▲	+15.41%
World 1000	1390.06	1154.34	1390.43	+1.32	+0.10%	+3.07%	▲	▲	▲	+15.97%

World Indexes	High	Low	Last	Net chg	1 day %chg	3-mo %chg	Wk	Mo	Qtr	12-mo %Chg
IPC (Mexico)	51772.37	43998.98	50363.95	+98.49	+0.20%	+2.82%	▲	▼	▲	+7.32%
S&P/TSX (Canada)	15943.09	14468.03	15389.60	+96.63	+0.63%	+1.59%	▲	▲	▲	+4.61%
Nikkei 225 (Japan)	20320.78	16111.81	20310.46	+11.08	+0.05%	+8.5%	▲	▲	▲	+20.84%
FTSE 100 (UK)	7598.99	6676.56	7271.95	-3.30	-0.05%	-2.36%	▼	▼	▼	+6.40%
Hang Seng (Hong Kong)	28248.12	21488.82	28127.80	+76.39	+0.27%	+9.47%	▲	▲	▲	+18.83%
Bovespa (Brazil)	75990.44	57111.00	75991.63	+17.45	+0.02%	+25.06%	▲	▲	▲	+30.14%
All Ord (Australia)	5976.43	5238.33	5769.71	-2.67	-0.05%	+1.17%	▼	▼	▼	+6.27%
TLV TA-25 (Israel)	1478.96	1363.50	1419.90	-5.06	-0.35%	-1.35%	▲	▲	▼	-1.36%

South Florida stocks of interest

Name (ticker)	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg	Name (ticker)	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg	Name (ticker)	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg	Name (ticker)	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
ASA Gold (ASA)	12.04	-11	+9.1	Boeing (BA)	255.46	+3.00	+64.1	Facebook (FB)	172.17	-35	+49.6	MotriAsolo (MSI)	85.65	-19	+3.3
AT&T Inc (T)	38.43	+22	-9.6	BritATob s (BTI)	62.04	-59	+5	FedEx (FDX)	220.50	+4.50	+18.4	NTT DOCO (DCM)	23.03	-11	+1.2
AbbottLab (ABT)	51.89	+48	+35.1	BrwnBrn (BRO)	47.33	+37	+55	FedNatHld (FNHC)	13.94	-08	-25.4	NatBevgr (FIZZ)	119.67	-11	+134.3
AdobeSys (ADBE)	149.96	-6.64	+45.7	CNOOC (CEO)	122.55	-23	-1.1	Flanigr (BDL)	23.05	+1.5	-5.3	Netlix s (NFLX)	185.51	-17	+49.8
AMD (AMD)	13.74	+6.2	+21.2	Canon (CAJ)	34.12	+36	+21.3	FordM (F)	11.71	-01	-3.5	NxtEraLP (NEP)	41.44	+09	+62.3
Aetna (AET)	155.03	-1.01	+25.0	CapOne (COF)	81.80	-84	-6.2	Forward h (FORD)	1.17	-03	-6.1	NextEraEn (NEE)	146.74	-1.18	+22.8
Allergan (AGN)	210.00	-5.00	...	Carnival (CCL)	64.48	+74	+23.9	GameStop (GME)	20.10	-09	-20.0	Novartis (NVS)	85.78	-07	+17.8
Allstate (ALL)	91.38	+24	+23.3	Carters (CRI)	93.87	+81	+8.7	GenElec (GE)	24.32	+12	-23.0	NovoNord (NVO)	49.11	+46	+36.9
Alphabet C (GOOG)	931.58	+9.77	+20.7	Caterpillar (CAT)	124.85	+11	+34.6	GenMotors (GM)	38.88	+18	+11.2	NutriSyst (NTRI)	52.50	+50	+51.5
Amazon (AMZN)	973.21	+3.35	+29.8	Cheesecake (CAKE)	41.83	+1.12	-30.1	GeoGrp s (GEO)	26.03	+09	+0.9	OcciPet (OXY)	62.49	+63	-12.3
AMOVILL (AMX)	18.54	+0.7	+47.5	ChesEng (CHK)	4.19	+15	-40.3	GlaxoSKin (GSK)	40.18	+26	+4.3	OceanBio (OBCI)	4.78	-02	+27.2
AmMovi A (AMOV)	18.30	-1.2	...	ChespKUtil (CPK)	78.20	+80	+16.8	GoldmanS (GS)	229.79	+88	-4.0	OcwenFn (OCN)	3.10	+01	-42.5
AmExp (AXP)	88.43	+57	+19.4	Chevron (CVX)	116.37	+03	-1.1	HP Inc (HPQ)	19.60	+11	+32.1	OfficeDpt (ODP)	4.30	-05	-4.9
ABINbev (BUD)	118.10	-1.98	+12.0	ChinaLife s (LFC)	15.28	-12	+18.7	HackettGp (HCKT)	14.73	+09	-16.6	Omnicom (OMC)	74.36	+1.61	-12.6
Anthem (ANTM)	183.49	+2.05	+27.6	ChinaPet (SNP)	76.08	+04	+7.1	Hanesbds s (HBI)	24.64	-07	+14.2	Oracle (ORCL)	47.97	-07	+25.2
Apple Inc (AAPL)	156.07	-2.66	+34.8	Cigna (CI)	181.82	+31	+36.3	Heico s (HEI)	89.21	+87	...	PatriotN n (PN)	1.21	-01	-74.0
ArmourR rs (ARR)	26.20	-11	+20.8	Cisco (CSCO)	32.60	+11	+7.9	HellIMan h (HMNY)	6.14	+44	+86.1	PepsiCo (PEP)	113.58	-91	+8.6
AstraZen s (AZN)	32.93	+2.6	+20.5	Citigroup (C)	71.46	+31	+20.2	Hess (HES)	43.46	+73	-30.2	PerryEllis (PERY)	21.87	-43	-12.2
AutoNatin (AN)	46.80	-09	-3.8	CitrixSys s (CTXS)	76.47	-01	+7.5	HomeDp (HD)	158.68	+1.02	+1.3	PetMed (PETS)	35.56	+21	+54.1
AutoBudg (CAR)	37.92	+12.8	+3.4	Clorox (CLX)	135.37	-2.15	+12.8	Honda (HMC)	29.65	+11	+18.6	PetChina (PTR)	63.33	-05	-14.1
Avon (AVP)	2.50	+03	-50.4	Coach (COH)	39.46	-89	+12.7	IBM (INTC)	37.07	-16	+2.2	Petrobras (PBR)	10.42	+40	+3.1
B Comm (BCOM)	15.50	...	-23.2	CocaCola (KO)	45.78	-20	+10.4	IBM (IBM)	145.88	+1.49	-12.1	Pfizer (PFE)	35.99	+54	+10.8
BB&T Cp (BBT)	44.86	+21	-4.6	Comcast s (CMCSA)	37.46	+16	+8.5	ITauUnibh (ITUB)	13.83	-06	+34.7	PhilipMor (PM)	113.43	-1.93	+24.0
BHP Billit (BHP)	42.05	-18	+17.5	ConocoPhil (COP)	48.33	+78	-3.6	JPMorgCh (JPM)	94.60	+66	+6.6	PlugPowr h (PLUG)	2.74	+33	+128.3
BHPBil plc (BBL)	36.51	-08	+16.1	Costco (COST)	162.85	+1.29	+1.7	JohnJn (JNJ)	133.22	-2.00	+15.6	ProctGam (PG)	94.40	+23	+12.3
BP PLC (BP)	37.23	+28	-4	Cross (CROX)	9.25	+02	+34.8	KB Home (KBH)	20.71	-57	+31.0	PulteGrp (PHM)	25.66	-57	+39.6
BkofAm (BAC)	25.06	+20	+13.4	CrsstCtryH (CCRN)	12.88	+22	-17.5	LennarA (LEN)	50.46	-1.35	+15.9	Qualcom (QCOM)	51.98	-32	-20.3
BkNova g (BNS)	63.22	+22	+13.5	DelmarPh n (DMPI)	1.07	-05	-66.4	Marcus (M)	21.48	-30	-40.0	RepubSvc (RSG)	66.59	-27	+16.7
Barclay (BCS)	10.09	-08	-8.3	Discover (DIS)	60.34	-15	-16.3	MarcusMill (MMI)	24.87	+06	-6.9	RestBrnds (QRG)	65.58	+72	+37.6
Barnes (B)	68.57	+1.20	+44.6	Disney (DIS)	99.21	+78	+4.8	Mastec (MTZ)	45.45	-60	+18.8	RioTinto (RIO)	47.82	-63	+24.3
BedBath (BBBY)	22.74	-4.29	-44.0	Dycom (DY)	81.86	+1.61	-2.0	McClatch rs (MNI)	7.34	-28	-44.3	RiteAid (RAD)	2.44	+04	-70.4
BerkH a (BRK/A)	275630	+780	+12.9	ENI (E)	32.70	+16	+1.4	McDnlds (MCD)	159.88	+2.45	+31.4	RoyalBk g (RY)	75.95	+16	+12.2
BerkH B (BRK/B)	183.82	+8.1	+12.8	Ecopetrol (EC)	9.50	+05	+5.0	Mednax (MD)	42.13	+94	-36.8	RylCarb (RCL)	115.54	-2.98	+40.8
BestBuy (BBY)	52.59	-17	+23.2	EnviroStr (EVI)	29.45	+35	+103.1	Merck (MRK)	65.79	-16	+11.8	RoyDShlB (RDS/B)	60.61	+66	+4.6
BigLots (BIG)	49.02	+18	-2.4	Equifax (EFX)	96.00	+11.3	-18.8	MicronT (MU)	35.97	+02	+64.1	RoyDShlA (RDS/A)	58.83	+69	+8.2
BlackBerry (BBRY)	9.85	+7.1	+43.0	Expedia (EXPE)	143.01	+1.54	+26.2	Microsoft (MSFT)	74.94	-50	+20.6	Ryder (R)	81.07	+1.24	+8.9
Blackstone (BX)	32.62	+21	+20.7	ExxonMbl (XOM)	80.55	+33	-10.8	MitsuUFI (MTU)	6.36	+04	+3.2	SAP SE (SAP)	109.90	-43	+27.2

Interest rates

RATE	YEST	6 MOS AGO	1YR AGO
Prime Rate	4.25	4.00	3.50
Fed Funds Rate	1.16	.91	.40
Fed Funds Target	1.13	.88	.38



TREASURIES	YEST	PVS	NET CHG	WK	MO	QTR	1YR AGO
3-month T-bill	1.04	1.03	+0.01	▲	▲	▲	.28
6-month T-bill	1.19	1.18	+0.01	▲	▲	▲	.42
52-wk T-bill	1.31	1.29	+0.02	▲	▲	▲	.61
2-year T-note	1.44	1.40	+0.04	▲	▲	▲	.78
5-year T-note	1.88	1.83	+0.05	▲	▲	▲	1.20
10-year T-note	2.27	2.25	+0.02	▲	▲	▲	1.69
30-year T-bond	2.81	2.82	-0.01	▲	▲	▲	2.43

BONDS	YEST	PVS	NET CHG	WK	MO	QTR	1YR AGO
AP Muni Bond Idx	2.27	2.25	+0.02	▲	▲	▲	1.88
Barclays Glob Agg Bd	1.58	1.58	...	▲	▲	▲	...
Barclays USAggregate	2.51	2.50	+0.01	▲	▲	▲	2.04
Barclays US Corp	3.14	3.14	...	▲	▲	▲	2.92
Barclays US High Yield	5.49	5.49	...	▼	▼	▼	6.44
Moody's AAA Corp Idx	3.67	3.67	...	▲	▲	▲	3.50
10-Yr. TIPS	.41	0.37	+0.04	▲	▲	▼	.19

BANK RATES (BANKRATE.COM NAT'L AVG.)

Auto Loans	wk chg	last	Mortgages	wk chg	last
36-mo. new car	▲	2.77	30 yr fixed	▲	3.79
60-mo. new car	▲	3.38	15 yr fixed	▲	2.99

Certificate of Deposit

6-month CD	1-year CD	Home Equity Loans
▲	0.41	\$30K HELOC
	0.74	\$30K home equ.
		▲
		6.37
		5.39

Most Active (\$2 or more)

Stock	Vol (1000s)	Last	Chg
Adv Micro Dev	81,499	13.74	+6.2
Bank of America	78,579	25.06	+2.0
Rite Aid Corp	52,797	2.44	+0.4
Apple Inc	49,942	156.07	-2.66
Micron Tech	40,467	35.97	+0.2
Chesapck Engy	38,158	4.19	+1.5
Gen Electric	36,256	24.32	+1.2